UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

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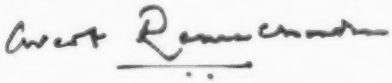
FOREWORD

The thirteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements came out strongly in support of considering human settlements both as a distinct entity and as a cross-sectoral issue at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED 1992). It recommended a list of human-settlements-related topics to guide the formulation of sustainable policies and programmes: shelter, water supply, sanitation, waste management, energy, transport and environment-friendly building materials.

The Commission also approved the work programme of the Centre for the next (1992-1993) biennium, and the budget proposals of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for that biennium. These are based on and centre around the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 -- progress on which the Commission noted with satisfaction.

This issue of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS highlights the Commission session and meetings of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat held in conjunction with that session. Articles in various regular sections of the newsletter also portray the growing concern with environmental issues -- from an ACC Inter-agency Group on New and Renewable Sources of Energy through my address on "The environment of people" delivered to the recent UNEP Governing Council, to the forthcoming WEDC conference on infrastructure, environment, water and people. These are complemented by a feature article on environmental health and human settlements, and by brief reports on other UNCHS activities, events and training courses, and publications.



Dr. Arcot Ramachandran
Under-Secretary-General
Executive Director

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THIRTEENTH COMMISSION SESSION

The thirteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements -- inaugurated by the President of Zimbabwe, H.E. Mr. Robert G. Mugabe on 29 April 1991 -- ended on 8 May. Eighty-six countries were represented at the meeting -- 24 at the Ministerial level. In addition to these 473 delegates, there were representatives of eight members of the United Nations family, plus two intergovernmental organizations. Fifteen non-governmental organizations were present as observers. The Holy See was represented by an observer, and the representative of Palestine participated. The African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania were also represented.

Elections

The Commission elected to its Bureau:

Chairman: H.E. Mr. E.C. Chikowore, Minister of Public Construction and National Housing, Zimbabwe

Vice-Chairmen: H.E. Dr. B. de Azevedo-Brito, Ambassador of Brazil to the Republic of Zimbabwe

Dr. S. Obeysekera, Chairman of Land Reclamation and Development Corporation, Sri Lanka

Mr. V. Sarnatsky, Goscomarchitecture, USSR

Rapporteur: Mr. H.S. van Eyk, Ministry of Housing, The Hague, The Netherlands.

Decisions/resolutions

Among the important decisions of the Commission at this session was that the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development **(UNCED 1992)** should consider human settlements as a distinct entity as well as a cross-sectoral issue. Delegations expressed the view that the Commission endorse a policy package for the UNCED Preparatory Committee discussions, including the Chairman's statement from The Hague Meeting (see the December 1990 issue of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS), and substantive recommendations on the role of human settlements in ensuring sustainable development, as well as specific proposals on how to incorporate these in "Agenda 21", a document being drawn up for submission to UNCED, and which is intended to guide policies and programmes for sustainable development in the twenty-first century. They noted that UNCED provided an opportunity to demonstrate how the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (GSS) could help to realize the goal of sustainable development.

The Commission recommended a list of human-settlements-related topics to guide the formulation of sustainable policies and programmes. These topics are shelter, water supply, sanitation, waste management, energy, transport and environment-friendly building materials. These in turn relate to seven of the main issues listed in the General Assembly resolution (44/228) on UNCED: protection of the atmosphere, protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources, protection of the oceans and coastal areas, protection and management of land resources, environmentally sound management of wastes, improvement of the living and working environment of the poor in urban slums and rural areas, and protection of human health conditions.

Another important recommendation emerging from the Commission was the convening of a Human Settlements Conference **(Habitat II)**, possibly in 1997, to review the changes that have taken place in the human settlements sector since Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976. Such a Conference might analyse and evaluate the impact of policy shifts in the human settlements area, review and determine the substantive role and contribution of the human settlements sector in the light of the results of UNCED, conduct a mid-term review of implementation of the GSS, and set the plan of action for human settlements in the twenty-first century.

Further resolutions

In a resolution requiring action by the General Assembly, the Commission noted with satisfaction the progress made on the implementation of the **GSS**, adopted the Plan of Action for 1992-1993 towards its implementation, and called on a range of actors (governments, the private sector, community-based organizations (CBOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)) to work towards the common goal of the Strategy. The Executive Director is to use the Global Strategy as an overall guide for the Centre's work programme for the 1992-1993 biennium, and others up to the year 2000. (In a decision the draft work programme was approved with modifications.) A separate resolution dealing with shelter-sector performance indicators, used for national monitoring of progress towards the goal, recommended that Governments prepare national progress reports for the fourteenth session of the Commission, and that at least one day of that session be devoted to a debate on "Monitoring the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000".

During the thirteenth session of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements, Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), had the following to say concerning the concept of sustainable development as it relates to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

The link between shelter and sustainable development is obvious. Any consideration of the living environment must begin from the subject of **housing** *and must be concerned primarily with the quality of life of the 1 billion people who are either homeless or housed in such inadequate conditions that their lives cannot be judged sustainable. This is the world's single greatest environmental problem, and there can be no serious discussion of developmental/environmental issues which does not take it into account.* **Land-resource management** *is urgently needed as land is becoming a scarce and threatened resource. The protection of* **water resources** *will ensure the continued supply of affordable, safe water for efficient and productive human settlements operation. Basic* **sanitation and waste-management services** *must be provided,* **energy resources** *must be used sustainably. It is necessary to look at the environmental/developmental implications of* **transportation** *such as settlement patterns that reduce the need for inter-urban and intra-urban transport, and measures aimed at improving mobility while reducing noise, traffic congestion and vehicle emissions. Finally, we must consider how the present and future populations will impose an ever-growing demand on the* **construction sector**.

Discussion of the theme paper on the **use of energy** by households, in construction and in the production of building materials, with emphasis on the use of energy sources that are new and renewable and that minimize pollution problems, led to a resolution emphasizing that sustainable human-settlements development could best be achieved through the rational, judicious and efficient use of energy by households, in construction and in the production of building materials. It outlined a number of steps towards that end, e.g., the use of renewable technologies and the promotion of appropriate standards, specifications and building regulations.

The promotion of **women** in human settlements management and development was the theme of a resolution which, *inter alia*, urged governments and the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) to take gender-sensitive steps to strengthen the role of women in shelter strategy development and implementation and in the work of the Centre, which now has a Women in Human Settlements focal point (see separate story elsewhere in this issue).

Pledges

New pledges from delegates at the thirteenth session of the United Nations Commission for Human Settlements added up to almost $US 2 million, divided evenly over the next two years.

Pledges

	1991	1992
Botswana	15,000	--
Gabon	60,811	--
Poland	15,038	
Sweden		897,666
Turkey		50,000
U.A.E.	300,000	
U.K.	167,224	
U.S.A.	400,000	
TOTAL	958,073	947,666
	1,905,739	

Special presentations

A colour photographic exhibition on the work of UNCHS (Habitat), with special emphasis on the Centre's technical cooperation projects in Africa, was on display throughout the session. The exhibition was well received by delegations. An audio-visual presentation with 15 video programmes from 12 country delegations provided experience-sharing on shelter action. That presentation focused on shelter challenges, energy conservation, self-help housing for low-income groups, and women's participation in shelter strategies. Burundi, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, France, India, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Romania, the United States and Zimbabwe made audio-visual presentations of their experiences in these areas.

Fourteenth session

The Commission will hold its fourteenth session from 26 April to 7 May 1993 in Nairobi, Kenya. The provisional agenda includes a progress report on UNCHS (Habitat) activities, the Global Strategy for Shelter, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and two special themes: improvement of municipal management; and appropriate, intermediate, cost-effective building materials, technologies and transfer mechanisms for housing delivery.

Closing session

In his concluding remarks the Executive Director, Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, stated that the purpose of the Global Shelter Strategy was to put in place by the year 2000 housing solutions for all the disadvantaged of the world. Pointing out that the year 2000 is a mere eight and a half years away, he asked, "Can anybody point to evidence of the great upsurge of energy and initiative which we all know it would take to meet this challenge? On the contrary, we can all see that the shelter situation is in fact worsening and there is a considerable body of opinion to the effect that the decline itself is accelerating."

He stated that the major international events of the past few months illustrated the capacity of the international community to mobilize the financial and other resources required and to carry out a course of action for which political will existed. The Executive Director said that the goals of the Strategy could be achieved if only we succeed in mobilizing the requisite political will. He called upon the governments represented at the Commission to speak up for the human settlements sector, both in the forthcoming UNCED 1992 and in the ongoing exercise on the restructuring of the economic and social sector of the United Nations.

Messages/statements

In his message to the Commission, the **United Nations Secretary-General**, Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, had said that in working for economic and social progress and development, one of the central issues that had to be addressed was to ensure adequate living conditions for all human beings. Expressing his satisfaction at the considerable progress that had been achieved in implementing the Global Strategy, he expressed his pleasure at the close cooperation between the Commission on Human Settlements, UNCHS (Habitat) and the Preparatory Committee for UNCED, in keeping with the essential role that human settlements play in the protection of the environment and the achievement of economic development and social progress.

In his inaugural address, the **Zimbabwean President**, H.E. Robert G. Mugabe, said that it was imperative that human settlements be managed in a manner that assured best use of scarce resources, since it is the condition of such settlements which determines the level of development in any country. Just as public, private, NGOs and CBOs must participate in achieving sustainable development, so must resources be mobilized at the global, regional and national levels, especially in developing countries.

UNCHS (Habitat) Executive Director, Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, spoke to the delegates about the disturbing yet relevant and stark contrast between the level of wealth, affluence and material culture attained by human society as a whole and the shockingly poor conditions under which a vast segment of that society must live. He noted that although "there have been many triumphs in this century, one fundamental goal continues to elude our grasp -- namely, assuring a decent living environment for every member of the human race". The forces exerting such pressure on human settlements are: growing integration of the global economy, rising expectations of the younger generations, rapid urbanization of the developing countries and growing pressure on resources. The implications for human settlements are that policies to manage urbanization will have to become a priority of governments and the international community alike with emphasis on the improvement of urban infrastructure (see also box).

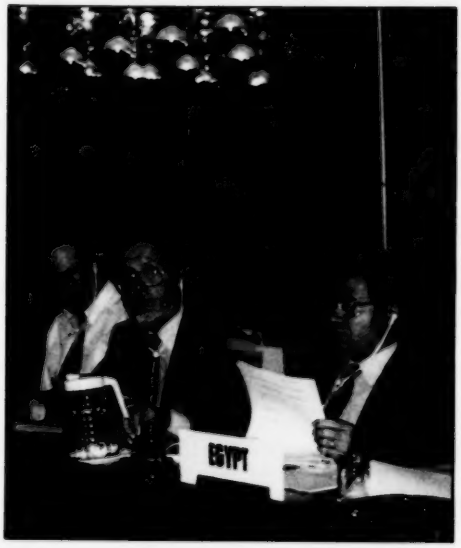
The statement of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (**UNEP**) pointed out the need to

HUNGARY
CHINA
CHILE

INDIA

POLAND
KENYA

MEXICO


EGYPT

IRAN

The President of Zimbabwe, H.E. Mr. Robert G. Mugabe, is seen viewing the UNCHS (Habitat) exhibition.

Below left: Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director, UNCHS (Habitat), is shown at the thirteenth Commission session with members of the delegation from Venezuela: Mr. José Rafael Velasquez, President of the National Institute of Housing (INAVI), H.E. Mr. Luis Penzini-Fleury, Minister of Urban Development, and H.E. Edgardo Mondolfi, Permanent Representative of Venezuela to UNCHS (Habitat).

Below right: Venue of the thirteenth session.

integrate the planning and development of human settlements with the concern to protect the natural environment and to use resources in a rational and sustainable manner. According to the Executive Director, UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP faced two challenging tasks: to encourage the development of partnership between the informal sector and local authorities; and to promote settlements systems that were planned and managed in symbiosis with the natural resource base.

UNCHS (Habitat) Executive Director, Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, in his message to the delegates of the Thirteenth Commission on Human Settlements said that...

The best way forward is through an enabling approach, such as that which is the cornerstone of the **Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000**. *Policies and measures must be put in place that will not only encourage people to improve their own lives but facilitate such action on their part, bringing them fully into the development process as true partners.*

The path to sustainable development is more easily identified than traversed. Let us be thoughtful of, but not dismayed by, the magnitude of our charge; let us be conscious of, but not deterred by, the complexity of our task. Let us, indeed, go forward with hope in our hearts and that inspiration that comes from knowing that we are committed to a truly worthwhile cause - that of building, as we move into the twenty-first century, a world where at last the basic right to live in a decent environment, conducive to health, happiness and human dignity, is at last assured for everyone.

The representative of the Secretary-General of **UNCED** noted that the importance of human settlements in the overall context of UNCED goals had been stressed repeatedly by many delegations at the April session of the Preparatory Committee. He pointed out the opportunity of modernized human settlements to provide an enabling environment for economic growth and services for acceptable living conditions. Among required new strategies were a more participatory approach to decision-making, new attitudes on the role of women, more credible use of land resources, the need to search for cost recovery, and the pricing of services at their real economic cost. Finally, a settlements strategy should set priorities on the basis of which to make faster progress in reducing poverty.

GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARIANS ON HABITAT

Tokyo Conference follow-up

At the Global Parliamentarians' Conference on Human Settlements and Development held at Tokyo, Japan, in September 1990, a number of parliamentarians presented **country reports**. Highlights follow. Parliamentary representation from Bangladesh described the settlement in urban villages of those displaced by upgrading efforts, while the Botswana delegation reported on an accelerated land-servicing programme. The French Parliamentarians stressed the importance of a public-sector role in social housing, and proposed international cooperation in aid of the world's least-developed cities. From Honduras came a call for more solidarity from developed countries in the areas of housing, employment and health. Morocco referred to new mechanisms to involve all actors (the State, local governments, parastatals and the private sector) in shelter efforts, while Niger described measures to aid the development of social housing. Papua New Guinea reported on a national integrated development plan. A French Parliamentarian also presented a report -- on "Trends in housing policies in the EEC countries".

Harare meeting

On 30 April and 1 May 1991, the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat met in Harare, Zimbabwe to follow up on their 1990 Tokyo Conference and to prepare for a conference scheduled for March 1992 in Vancouver, Canada. Some 40 participants from 25 countries took part in the meeting, which also resulted in a resolution by the thirteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements.

The Harare meeting of the Global Parliamentarians took place under the chairmanship of Senator T. Nakanishi, who informed the meeting of progress made since the Tokyo Conference of September 1990. The **Tokyo Declaration**, unanimously adopted by that Conference, had been handed over to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and to the Secretary-General of UNCED, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development scheduled to take place in Brazil in 1992. She pointed out that United Nations General Assembly resolution 44/228 (para 12) states the need both to improve the living and working environment of the poor in urban slums and rural areas, and to protect human health and improve the quality of life. She went on to elaborate on this point (see box).

Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director of **UNCHS** (Habitat), also spoke of **preparations for UNCED** in his statement to the Parliamentarians. These included not only the Intergovernmental Meeting mentioned by Senator Nakanishi, but also the Sustainable Cities Programme and, closely linked to it, the UNCHS/World Bank/UNDP Urban Management Programme. "But for all these and other initiatives of the Centre to be ultimately successful, we will require your assistance at the national political level. This is why I should like to urge you to form national parliamentary groupings in your respective countries the purpose of which should be to lobby for and promote policies and programmes directed towards the improvement of the working and living environment in human settlements."

Undeniably, adequate shelter and a healthy living environment are, after food, the most pressing and immediate human need. The right to adequate shelter is recognized universally, but no country can claim to have solved its shelter problems. The human settlement issue is, therefore, a common concern of all of us here, and it is very important for us to exchange our views, experiences and information. We would like to learn from the experiences of other countries mutually so as to contribute to the betterment of human settlements for sustainable development at both national and international levels.

Those who attended the Meeting provided information about such **national groups** or committees of Parliamentarians on Habitat -- as called for in the Tokyo Declaration. The head of the Chinese delegation informed the Meeting that a national housing group had been established under the Financial and Economic Committee of the National People's Congress of China, which has undertaken the responsibility for housing legislation and planning in China. In Germany, a parliamentary group in the form of a sub-committee dealing with human settlements has also been established as part of a standing parliamentary committee on housing and urban development. In Indonesia there is a parliamentary sub-committee on the environment which deals with human settlements issues.

Senator T. Nakanishi is seen flanked by Mr. S. Kuyama, Co-ordinator, Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, and Mr. G. Rao, Chief, IAVD Division, UNCHS (Habitat).

To the reader:

At the Harare meeting of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, the importance of disseminating information on legislation and the exchange of experiences among Parliamentarians was stressed - - as an enhancement of Global Parliamentarians' actions in the field of human settlements in general and as a follow-up to the Tokyo Declaration in particular.

In this connection, we would be pleased to receive information on any developments or initiatives taken within your own country or region by Parliamentarians on habitat matters.

Such correspondence should be addressed to: Mr. Sumihiro Kuyama, Co-ordinator, Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, c/o UNCHS (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya.

INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION

Solar Energy Group on Environment and Development

In March 1991 the United Nations Solar Energy Group on Environment and Development met for the second time. An expert group for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, it is to prepare a significant contribution for the Conference in the form of "a comprehensive and analytical study on new and renewable sources of energy" and "to consider appropriate action including funding and transfers of technologies".

Attending the meeting held in Rome were experts from the Group, plus representatives of United Nations organs and agencies, among them UNCHS (Habitat). After an opening session addressed by Congressman Scheme of Germany and the Assistant Under-Secretary of State of Sweden, three working groups were set up: on the Nairobi Plan of Action, on contributions of new and renewable sources of energy (NRSEs) in the 1990s, and on the energy agenda for the 1990s and beyond.

Participating in the third group, UNCHS representative Mr. V. Geerjanan suggested that emphasis be shifted from project to programme orientations, that NRSE projects be expanded, that programme evaluation take into consideration environmental aspects, and that NRSE be included in national energy plans.

ACC Inter-agency Group on New and Renewable Sources of Energy

Mr. Geerjanan represented UNCHS at the tenth session of the ACC Inter-agency Group on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (NRSEs), held in March 1991 at Geneva. Opening the session, Mr. A. Ould Abdallah, Special Co-ordinator, NRSE, Development and International Economic Co-operation (DIEC), thanked the Executive Director of Habitat for his interest in promoting NRSE and for having sent his representative both to the Rome meeting and to the Inter-agency one.

That representative briefed the meeting on ongoing action of the Centre (covered regularly in UNCHS HABITAT NEWS) and proposed activities. Among the latter, the proposed pre-feasibility study on district cooling proved of particular interest to the participants. While the technologies for generation of cold water and cold brine using low-temperature waste heat of off-peak electricity are well established, the implications of their integration in a district-cooling-system in human settlements is still unknown. The project aims at carrying out detailed studies on such implications which show potential advantages such as use of waste energy of power stations -- leading to a reduction both in electricity consumption and in pollution. Members of the group also evinced strong interest in the recent UNCHS publication *People, Settlements, Environment and Development*, especially the chapter on sustainable energy systems for human settlements.

(See also review under Information Initiatives.)

1994 International Year of the Family: Agent of change at the local level

The main theme of the International Year of the Family (IYF), 1994, will be "Family: Resources, and responsibilities in a changing world", with further sub-topics such as "Families as agents of development at the local level" and "The role of the family in improving the quality of life". The observance of the Year will be concentrated at the local, regional and national levels -- with assistance from the United Nations and its system of organizations.

The First Ad-hoc Inter-agency Meeting on the IYF took place at the United Nations Office at Vienna, Austria, on 13 and 14 March 1991, with the participation of 14 members of the United Nations family -- Habitat included. The meeting focused on the role of family issues in general and the IYF in particular in the activities of each organization, the role of the United Nations system in preparations for and observances of the Year, and inter-agency cooperation on the Year.

UNCHS (Habitat) representative Mr. M. Hundsalz noted that practically all the programmes of the Centre affect the family and the quality of its life. Four recent and ongoing programme areas are directly relevant: the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in 1987, the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, the annual celebrations of World HABITAT Day (dedicated in 1989 to the topic "Shelter, health and the family") and women and human settlements -- an ongoing UNCHS concern (see also the article on that topic in this issue of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS).

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UNCHS (Habitat) ACTIVITIES

Public/Private partnership for development

Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) delivered the keynote address to the National Congress of the Urban Development Institute of Australia at Perth, Australia, in March 1991. Following are excerpts from his speech entitled: "The Urban Challenge to the Year 2000: Public/Private Partnership for Development".

As we are about to enter into the 21st century, we find ourselves at the threshold of a new urban age. A transformation is taking place, propelled by shifting economic priorities and technological innovation, one which is changing the nature and functions of urban settlements. The transformation so far has been anything but gradual. Between 1960 and 1980, the urban population of developing countries more than doubled (from 460 million to 966 million). Given the rates of population growth, overall demand for urban land will increase by 118 per cent between 1980 and the end of this century. Such an expansion demands housing, commercial and industrial development, new road and infrastructure networks and constant up-dating of maps and records.

Yet we find instead an increasing deterioration of the social and physical environment as well as the economic and fiscal base of many once-prosperous urban centres. At the same time, cities in industrialized countries are beginning to expand outward. Some of the out-migrants are living up to 100 kilometres away from their work, but the jobs are running out to join up with them. Here too the speed of urban transition is making urban development a haphazard process and frustrating both private enterprise and ordinary residents alike.

Though well-intentioned, the public sector's attempts to plan and regulate development have had negative results. A prime example is the failure of master planning: "survey-analyse-evaluate-plan-implement". In the developing countries urban growth is now taking place outside the regulatory system, for example, through illegal squatting. The new paradigm of urban expansion is "occupy-build-service-plan". This has contributed to growing tensions between the public and private sector.

The urban challenge requires a response, a different relationship between the public and the private sector. With shrinking public finances and investment budgets, public/private partnerships will be a key to the economic success of urban projects. Generally, government brings the start-up capital, while the private developer contributes substantial additional capital, financial expertise, and a capacity to construct, market and manage the project. Day-to-day management of urban areas is also increasingly being undertaken by public/private partnerships.

Similarly, the public sector, in all countries, has neither the resources nor the technical capacity to address urban environmental issues alone. UNCHS (Habitat) realizes that the success of the Sustainable Cities Programme, launched last year, will hinge on the creation of effective coordination mechanisms among public agencies and between public and non-public bodies and organizations.

Honorary degrees awarded in Venice

On 23 April 1991, the "Instituto Universitario di Architettura" of Venice awarded degrees *honoris causa* to Phyllis Lambert, Olin Stephens and Arcot Ramachandran. The choice was meant to symbolize three significant features of Venice's history: its architectural heritage, its relationship to the sea and its historical linkages with cities and countries all over the world. Ms. Lambert achieved international distinction as the creator and founder of the most important architectural archive in existence; Olin Stephens reached unique fame for the elegance and perfection of the boats he designed and built; and Dr. Ramachandran distinguished himself for spearheading and developing international cooperation on human settlements. In accepting the honorary degree, Dr. Ramachandran stated that this honour had to be shared with the staff of UNCHS (Habitat) who, at headquarters and in the field, had contributed to the Centre's achievements over the years. The previous day, Dr. Ramachandran had conducted a seminar for faculty and students of the Graduate School for Urban Planning in the Developing Countries.

The "Instituto Universitario di Architettura" of Venice is one of the oldest and most prestigious schools of architecture in Italy. Among its faculty were internationally renowned designers and planners such as Carlo Scarpa, Bruno Zevi, Luigi Piccinato and Giovanni Astengo.

In recent years, and under the leadership of its dean, Prof. Parlo Ceccarelli, the Institute has expanded considerably its international profile. The launching of the Graduate School for Urban Planning in the Developing Countries is perhaps the most notable example. Established in 1989, the School offers an intensive one-year

(Left to right) The father of Olin Stephens, Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Phyllis Lambert and Prof. Parlo Ceccarelli.

course for post-graduate training and field work to Italian and foreign professionals seeking to improve their skills in addressing urban development issues in the developing world.

The environment of people

The following excerpts have been taken from Dr. Ramachandran's speech to the sixteenth session of the United Nations Environment Programme's Governing Council, 27 May 1991, at Nairobi.

The issue of environmental sustainability is uppermost in all our minds as we enter the final development decade of this century. Unfortunately, one cannot really say that the concern for the improvement of the immediate environment of people, the "living" environment, has kept pace with concern for the "natural" environment. One wonders whether the current preoccupation, if not anxiety, over such admittedly vital issues as climate change has not tended to overshadow the fact that sustainable development, is, in the final analysis, intended to benefit people in their ordinary pursuits as human beings.

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) will be ignoring its responsibility if it does not also focus attention on the living environment of the world's people and the factors which directly condition it.

For its part, UNCHS (Habitat) has embarked on the **Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000** (GSS) which aims at the promotion of national construction industries and access to land for the poor.

Supplementing work on the GSS, our responsibility for the **Urban Water Resource and Sanitation Programme** in the context of UNCED, is to come up with a sustainable strategy for servicing human settlements with water-supply and sanitation facilities up to the end of the century and beyond. Linked to this is the **Waste Management and Recycling Programme** which is studying appropriate technologies and methods for dealing with household and industrial refuse. We are also devoting considerable attention to the human-resource requirements of sustainable development -- training, community participation and grassroots commitment. Finally, institutional capacity-building is supported through our **Urban Management Programme**.

One of the great difficulties with environmental programmes is that they have not tended to approach the problem based on the understanding of all the underlying factors. For instance, the real issue in sustainable development is not "protecting the environment" *per se* but how to optimally manage environmental resources to achieve sustainable social, economic and physical development.

A strong case was made by the Commission on Human Settlements at its thirteenth session for a two-pronged approach to the human settlements and sustainable development issue, linking human settlements and development management, and connecting independent sectoral issues on the UNCED agenda to their human settlements framework.

What then is to be done?

First, bear in mind that the UNCED debate is about environment and development. Secondly, forge an action-coalition of national governments, industry, local authorities and communities. Thirdly, act urgently, with both North-South and South-South cooperation. Finally, strengthen institutional arrangements with the United Nations system so that agencies whose work is closely linked to sustainable development goals receive enhanced resources.

In its resolution 16/21, "Co-operation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)", the Governing Council noted with satisfaction the joint progress report of the Executive Directors of those two agencies and welcomed the increasing co-operation in the four established areas and within the system-wide efforts of the United Nations, requesting the UNEP Executive Director to continue and intensify that co-operation. The four subject areas are:

- Assessment of environmental conditions in human settlements;
- Environmental aspects of policies, planning and management of human settlements - both rural and urban;
- Environmentally sound and appropriate human settlements technology; and
- Research, training and the dissemination of information on environmentally-sound human settlements planning and management.

... the real issue in sustainable development is not "protecting the environment" *per se* but how to optimally manage environmental resources to achieve sustainable social, economic and physical development.

"Shelter and Human Settlements": New partnerships towards a new century

We present our readers with a summary of "Shelter and Human Settlements - Towards the 21st Century", the address by Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) to the World Congress of the International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI) at Singapore on 30 May 1991, where he discussed the issue of the complementary roles of the public and private sector, particularly the real-estate profession.

The important and necessary contribution of the private sector to social progress and economic growth has been receiving more and more recognition and attention in recent years both as a consequence of a better appreciation of what the public sector can and cannot do, and as a result of the general resource and fiscal constraints which characterize most developing countries today and a large number of industrialized States as well.

Ways must be found to meet growing and still unfulfilled pressing needs when it comes to housing and urban development. We must search for innovative new directions. Here the private sector will have to assume a leading role at the international level as well as at the national level.

The Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (GSS), the guiding instrument for international and national action in matters of housing for the remaining years of this century and beyond, urges the public sector to assume the role of enabler so that low-income groups have access to housing and

the credit facilities to purchase, construct, or improve it. The ultimate aim of the enabling concept is to facilitate all those who can do so to construct and improve their own homes, so that the public sector can then focus its limited resources on those who are truly destitute.

Although the success of the Strategy depends to a large degree on public/private partnership, a long history of mutual recrimination and suspicion between the public and private sectors must be overcome. In the future, public/private partnership may also be required to address urban environmental problems in both developing and developed countries. International protocols related to global warming and ozone-layer depletion will be signed by governments, and these in turn will, sooner or later, impact on the allowable levels of urban energy use, type of transport modes, and patterns of urban growth so as to minimize atmospheric emissions and pollution. The city of the future, and its pattern of development, will therefore require some imagination. The city may be more dense, allow for much more mixed-use zoning, and require shorter commuting distances and new and less-polluting forms of transport. This will be a challenge not only to governments and to the scientific community, but also to the real-estate profession, as a key participant in urban and housing development.

Such a partnership towards the goal of the GSS would bring us one step closer to a world where all -- man, woman, and child -- could live in a home they are not ashamed of; where everyone can enjoy a minimum of space, privacy, security and protection; and where everyone can share a sense of pride in living in settlements, be they small towns or large cities, built and developed through common efforts and for the common good.

Old shelter policies and new strategies in Latin America

Hosted by the Government of Costa Rica and co-sponsored by UNCHS (Habitat), the Economic Development Institute (EDI) of the World Bank and the Finnish International Development Agency (FINNIDA), the Latin American seminar on the Global Strategy for Shelter (GSS) was held in San José, Costa Rica, from 4 to 8 March 1991. Over 150 participants from 17 countries attended the meeting, which was inaugurated by H.E. Cristóbal Zawadski, Minister of Housing and Human Settlements, and closed by H.E. Rafael Angel Calderón, President of the Republic of Costa Rica.

Mr. Darshan Johal, Director of the Office of Programme Co-ordination of UNCHS (Habitat), delivered the Centre's message on behalf of the Executive Director. He stated that, in an enabling environment, the role of the government should be different and more important than in the past: "The State should mobilize all its resources and the capacity of government to stimulate, catalyse and, therefore, facilitate the action of the local authorities, the communities, the private entrepreneurs and the citizens in all the fields of shelter delivery."

He also stated that the ultimate goal of the Strategy is not only to attain more habitable settlements but settlements in which the apparent contradiction between ecology and development can be solved: "Hamlets, villages, towns, cities and metropolises -- built by men and women to improve their systems of co-existence and interchange -- are the living environment of mankind. To settle is, above all, to make a territory habitable."

Mr. Mauricio Silva, representing EDI, stated that the role of the private and public sectors must be rethought: "The access of urban poor should be increased not only to reduce poverty but to face its causes."

Mr. Oscar Gómez-Villa, UNCHS (Habitat) Senior Advisor, presented a summary of the GSS showing not only the need to set up enabling environments to facilitate shelter for all but also the complexity of the solutions needed to meet that goal: "The shelter problem has multiple dimensions and its solution cannot be purely technocratic, simply legal or merely financial...The key to shelter for all is made up of a cluster of interwoven approaches which form a **multidimensional response**." The GSS deals with political and participatory, fiscal and financial as well as with physical and spatial aspects (Box 1).

Mr. Gómez-Villa introduced shelter indicators, to assess the performance of the sector and to follow up the national actions in formulating, adjusting or executing strategies for housing and services. "Sound future decisions toward improving the performance of the national shelter sector must be based on a clearer and more comprehensive understanding of the shelter sector itself and its role in the national economy." Later, he showed the ten categories of indicators that have been so far identified by UNCHS (Habitat) to monitor the sector, ranging from **housing stock and deficit** to **environmental performance**.

Mr. Agustín Mourelo explained how the new shelter strategy of Costa Rica was formulated, with support from UNCHS (Habitat) and FINNIDA. His presentation was an interesting opportunity to share experiences and to see how such a project had been carried out in practical terms: new institutional arrangements are proposed for the sector in Costa Rica and a new operational plan for housing and human settlements has been designed. This presentation was complemented later with the intervention of Mr. Mario Cangiani, Chief Technical Advisor for UNCHS/UNDP project NIC 89/019, who gave Nicaragua's experience in formulating its shelter strategy.

Ms. Marta Lucia Hincapié, EDI consultant, talked about the access of the urban poor to basic services. She stressed that the fight against critical poverty must be part of government strategies. Resources and decisions are still over-centralized. Other ac-

Box 1
Main GSS recommendations

Political and participatory issues:

- Linking the shelter sector with development plans
- New institutional arrangements
- Reviewing laws and regulations
- Strengthening local governments
- Promoting broader cooperation
- Coordinating the public and private sector
- Encouraging women's participation
- More urban services through local government
- Revising building and infrastructure codes
- Regularizing informal-sector activities
- Training for a broad range of actors
- Monitoring the shelter sector

Fiscal and financial

- Mobilizing financial resources for shelter
- Reforming shelter finance systems
- Developing efficient subsidy systems
- Reducing financial intermediation margins
- Improving loan recovery methods
- Loans for shelter improvement
- Financing rental housing
- Increasing investment in infrastructure
- Collecting user charges
- Collecting property taxes
- Private-sector management of infrastructure

Physical and spatial

- Upgrading existing shelter units
- Stimulating private-sector production
- Increasing land supply
- Streamlining building and subdivision permits
- Lowering infrastructure standards
- Protecting inner-city slum renters
- Developing building materials and technologies
- Improving urban and architectural design
- Using appropriate infrastructure technologies
- Using more indigenous building materials
- Improving land registration systems

tors -- local governments and the private sector -- can and must be involved to solve the problem.

Ms. Ximena de la Barra and Mr. Oscar Gómez-Villa, Habitat advisors, gave a summary of the national reports presented by the participating countries.

Two workshops discussed, respectively, the formulation of national shelter strategies and the access of the urban poor to basic services and identified common obstacles (Box 2).

Both workshops made important **recommendations**:

- Policies of harmonious territorial development must be formulated, to establish secondary nuclei which contribute to a balanced development.
- The State's role should change from provider to facilitator.
- Decentralization should be encouraged and municipalities strengthened.
- The environmental impact of human settlements and shelter must be considered.
- The human settlements and shelter sector must be restructured to be more effective.
- Mechanisms for monitoring, evaluating and updating of national shelter strategies should be set up.
- Overt, fair and targeted subsidies should be set up for those really in need.
- Attention should be paid as much to the building of new units as to the improvement of those already in existence.
- Housing supply should be fairly oriented to all income groups.
- Both urban and rural housing should be promoted.
- Government should stimulate the private sector towards production of low-cost housing.
- Technologies which make best use of physical and human resources should be developed.
- Housing-related NGOs need to be supported by the government.
- An abundant and constant flow of financial resources in the shelter sector must be guaranteed.

Box 2
Obstacles to shelter for all in Latin America

- Lack of a territorial policy which recognizes the needs and resources of the subnational regions and strengthens the local authorities
- Lack of urban policy with defined and clear priorities
- Inadequate and sometimes obsolete laws, rules and regulations on urbanization, construction and property transfer
- Shortage of adequate procedures for legalization of land tenure
- Inadequate norms for rental housing
- Duplication of efforts and lack of inter-institutional coordination
- Limited ability of the State for effective planning
- Low investment in infrastructure and services
- Limited availability of serviceable land within the reach of the poorest
- Lack of coordination between the housing industry and other economic activities that generate employment
- Economic, technical and legal weakness of regional and local agencies
- Lack of community participation in the decision-making process
- Lack of support for community organization and participation
- Shortage of rural housing
- Shortage of installed capacity to produce low-cost materials
- Limited participation by the private sector in the production of low-cost housing
- Shortage of adequate funding

Regarding the shelter performance indicators, the seminar recognized the need to monitor the sector periodically and recommended that UNCHS complement and enlarge the information provided and that the countries select the most appropriate indicators for their national context.

Finally, the seminar recommended to UNCHS (Habitat) and donor governments that the interchange of information on housing and shelter policies continue through periodic and regional workshops, seminars and conferences.

H. E. Rafael Angel Calderón, President of Costa Rica, in the closing speech of the seminar, declared: "The formulation and constant updating of housing strategies, responding to the changing needs and conditions of the society, must be a priority in the agenda of all administrations, no matter which ideology they have. The shelter problem should be seen and dealt with through a holistic approach that, including all economic, social, physical and ecological issues, succeeds not by attaining purely quantitative goals, but qualitative results.

"The shelter sector must be linked to the general national economy, to stimulate and make good use of its multiplier effect -- creating opportunities for employment and income...Besides, housing development should be a process which involves the effort and contribution of the communities and the local government. The central Government must play a role of promoter and orienter more than supplier."

Worldwide dissemination of Habitat's global database on human settlements/ launching of the City Data Programme

HSDB.stat

The April 1989 issue of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS informed readers about ongoing research activities in establishing a comprehensive, computerized database on human settlements, called Human Settlements Statistical Data Base (HSDB.stat). The official dissemination of version 2.0 of the software to member countries, multilateral and bilateral development organizations and research institutes started during the thirteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements, held in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 29 April to 8 May 1991.

The official dissemination of HSDB.stat on PC-diskettes was announced in a press release on 1 May 1991; individual demonstrations of the software were provided to delegates and representatives of non-governmental organizations. The scale of positive response was extraordinary, going considerably beyond what was expected. Over fifty copies of the software were handed out, with the restriction that each delegation/institution could get only one copy. (Additional copies were distributed before and after the Commission session.)

HSDB.stat is a computerized statistical database running on IBM-compatible personal computers. It amalgamates large amounts of data into one source and allows the user to store, process and retrieve statistical data on human settlements in 160 countries. Delegates/researchers who attended a demonstration reacted very positively, commending Habitat for the very useful and easy-to-operate database. Users also appreciate that there is no need to buy any additional commercial software to run the system, since HSDB.stat is a completely self-contained program developed in-house the copyrights to which rest solely with the Centre.

City Data Programme

Most of the statistics contained in HSDB.stat's 76 data tables are national-level, official statistics and global

aggregates. Some tables contain basic city-level and other disaggregate data, but, in the main, the information stored cannot satisfy the rapidly growing demand for comprehensive city-specific information. A Consultative Meeting on Urban Environmental Data and Information Systems, held in October 1989 in Washington, D.C., identified the lack of collaboration/coordination and exchange of urban data among international agencies as one of the main shortcomings in urban research and policy-making; it also recognized UNCHS(Habitat) as the appropriate institution to be entrusted with a global coordination and repository function for urban data. A follow-up Technical Working Group meeting on urban environmental indicators, held in September 1990 in Barcelona, Spain, urged the Centre to develop and maintain a global city database for the management and exchange of urban data worldwide (see also UNCHS HABITAT NEWS of December 1990, page 25).

In response to this request, the Centre announced the launching of a **City Data Programme** (CDP), on 1 May this year. Before launching the CDP, the Centre conducted a feasibility study, during which a preliminary city-data framework was designed and tested, by extracting data on approximately 400 cities from sources available in the Centre. The experience gained from this exercise is reflected in the design of the Programme, which gives particular attention to complex methodological tasks in the area of definition-development as well as harmonization and standardization of city data.

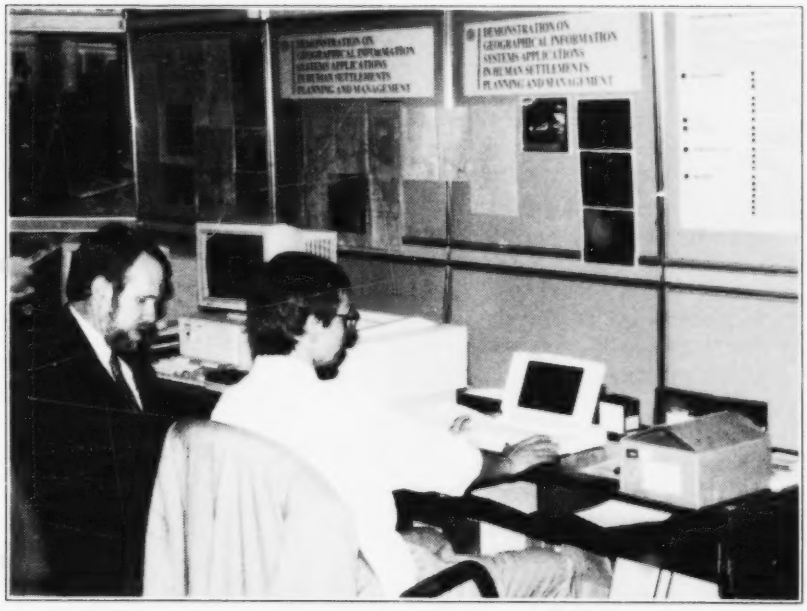
The CDP is structured in two phases, each of which will cover a period of three years. The first phase will yield outputs under three projects.

(a) The first project will produce a PC-application software, entitled **UNCHS-CitiBase**, a global database on cities and a survey of urban-data-collection activities on the part of intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions. This project will also carry out the methodological work and the data-collection/compilation activities for the establishment of the global city database.

(b) The second project, to be carried out in eight cities in Kenya, will generate two outputs - a survey of city-level data- collection practices and a preliminary urban-data framework, including key urban indicators. A regional expert group meeting will be convened to review the outputs and ongoing activities of the project.

(c) The third project will be a dissemination exercise which will be responsible for the production of a high-quality sales publication, bearing the provisional title *City Profiles*, six wall charts, featuring pressing urban problems, and a software package called **PC-CitiBase** for worldwide distribution.

A demonstration at the thirteenth Commission session.



UNCHS/HDFC of India sign Memo of Understanding

In March 1991, a Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.) was signed between the Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) of India and UNCHS (Habitat), serving as the basis for cooperation between the two, with specific reference to HDFC's newly-established Centre for Housing Finance in Lonavla, India. The Centre has been set up by HDFC primarily to support market-oriented housing finance systems, providing a resource base for the applied training of those working in housing-finance institutions in developing countries, and offering both theoretical and practical knowledge.

The Centre for Housing Finance has already organized a set of management development programmes on such subjects as housing finance management and managerial effectiveness, credit evaluation and loan servicing in housing finance management, and housing finance policy, management and organizational development.

The M.O.U. aims to facilitate technical assistance and managerial training for institutional support of housing finance bodies in developing countries. HDFC and Habitat will use their skills to provide relevant services to developing countries, e.g. through an ongoing information exchange programme. Both the organizations may undertake activities relating to research and development in housing finance. They will also co-sponsor workshops, seminars, meetings and conferences in connection with the aims of the Memorandum. (See following article.)

UNCHS/HDFC Housing-finance Workshop

UNCHS (Habitat), in cooperation with the Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) of India, jointly organized a housing-finance workshop on the theme "Integrating Housing Finance into the National Finance Systems of Developing Countries". The Workshop was held in Goa, India, from 10 to 14 June 1991.

It was designed to bring together chief executives and managers of national housing-finance institutions as well as other renowned experts on housing finance, to exchange views and share national ex-

periences in the operation of housing finance in the various developing countries, and in the light of those experiences to review and examine the feasibility and advisability of integrating housing-finance systems into the overall national finance systems of developing countries, with full exploration of the implications of such integration for the viability of those systems.

The Workshop was opened by Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), and addressed by Mr. Deepak S. Parekh, Managing Director of HDFC and by Mr. S.K. Sharma, Chairman and Managing Director of the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO), also of India. The Workshop was attended by chief executives and managers of national housing-finance institutions as well as housing-finance experts from India, Indonesia, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, who presented detailed national status reports on the development and degree of integration of housing finance into the national finance systems of their respective countries.

The UNCHS working document, "Integrating Housing Finance into the National Finance Systems of Developing countries", was fully reviewed and discussed, as were the specific pertinent issues impacting on financial integration, such as resource mobilization, the macro-economy, legal and regulatory issues, mortgage instruments and management of the various risks involved (in terms, e.g., of credit, liquidity and interest rates).

The Workshop made far-reaching suggestions on the need to strengthen housing-finance systems in developing countries, highlighting the potentials in tapping informal-sector sources and stressing the need to meet the requirements of the low-income population. The Workshop noted that various developing countries were at varying stages of domestic socio-economic and financial development and would have to develop and integrate at their respective paces as their specific situations permit. Possible options in the march towards such development were outlined. The full report of the Workshop will be published later in the year.

Exhibition on Colombian architecture held at UNCHS headquarters

Co-sponsored by UNCHS (Habitat) and the Colombian embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, an exhibition of Colombian architecture was opened on 22 July 1991 by Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) and by H.E. Mr. Germán Garcia-Durán, Ambassador of the Republic of Colombia to Kenya and Permanent Representative of Colombia to UNCHS (Habitat).

Speaking at the ceremony, H.E. Mr. Germán Garcia-Durán noted that the Biennial Exhibition of Architecture, organized by the Colombian Society of Architects, brought together architects working in four areas: urban design, architectural design, restoration and research. The eleventh such Exhibition, on display at the United Nations Office at Gigiri, included low-income housing, informal development, public spaces, cultural facilities and community centres, while stressing environmental quality.

Both the ambassador and Dr. Ramachandran spoke of continuing cooperation between the Government of Colombia and UNCHS (Habitat), and mentioned the highly praised demonstration project for low-cost housing in Ciudad Salitre, a "city-within-a-city" which illustrates many of these concepts as well as technology exchange within the region.

H.E. Mr. Germán Garcia-Durán, watched by his wife, offers Dr. Arcot Ramachandran the book Testimony, which includes all the projects in the Biennial

UNCHS activities related to mitigation of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant catastrophe

In September 1990, a UNCHS (Habitat) mission visited Minsk, the capital of the Byelorussian SSR, at the request of the Government of that Republic. Later that month, UNCHS staff member Mr. P. Towfighi participated in the joint United Nations mission to three republics (the Ukranian SSR, Byelorussian SSR and Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic).

During the USSR delegation's visit to UNCHS (Habitat) headquarters in February 1991, the project document was approved. It covers assistance to areas of the USSR affected by the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, while phase one focuses on assistance to the Town Planning Institute of the Byelorussian SSR in the human-settlements sector for mitigation of the consequences of the accident at Chernobyl. As part of the implementation of this project, a UNCHS group of experts is planning to visit Minsk and Kiev in August/September.

On 8 May 1991, at its thirteenth session, the Commission on Human Settlements requested the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), in consultation with the Coordinator of the United Nations Chernobyl programme to identify projects for the resettlement of people from the affected areas, and to make efforts to activiate the implementation of the technical cooperation project in the Byelorussian SSR -- the area most affected by the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

The Third Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the USSR and Union Republics devoted to United Nations activities aimed at alleviating the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe in a statement on 28 June noted that important steps had been taken towards establishing a system of international cooperation in studying, alleviating and minimizing those effects of the Chernobyl catastrophe. A comprehensive master plan for United Nations activities was being finalized, yet the plan would now require implementation not only by United Nations agencies, but by Member States, scientific and business communities, the public at large, influential public organizations and the international community.

THE URBAN MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The Partnership Approach

The Urban Management Programme (UMP), launched in 1986, is a major approach by the United Nations family of organizations together with external support agencies (ESAs) to strengthen the contribution that cities and towns in developing countries make toward economic growth, social development and the alleviation of poverty. The Programme develops and promotes appropriate policies and tools in five substantive areas: municipal finance and administration, land management, infrastructure management, urban environment, and poverty. Through its capacity-building activities, it is working to establish effective partnerships with national, state/provincial and local governments as well as with ESAs, in the areas of applied research, dissemination of information, and experiences of best practices.

Partnerships at the city level

At the city level, UMP works with elected city officials and technical staff, community-based organizations (CBOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including the informal private sector, local enterprises and self-help groups in developing and/or strengthening capacity for planning, implementing and managing urban development programmes and projects, both at the level of the community or neighbourhood as well as city-wide. Activities at this level include:

- Developing and adapting management tools, instruments, systems and procedures designed to improve efficiency in the performance of municipal management functions;
- Developing and adapting effective arrangements for public/private partnerships in the planning, financing, implementation and management of urban development programmes and projects with particular attention to community participation and involvement of the informal sector;
- Formulating appropriate arrangements between CBOs and NGOs and local government authorities in pursuing community improvement programmes and projects, using available community resources and manpower;
- Organizing training programmes for both local government authorities and community leaders in the planning, execution and management of community improvements; and
- Technical support in strengthening financial and managerial capacity for the delivery of basic municipal services.

Partnerships at the country level

In several developing countries, planning, financing, implementation and management of basic urban services are shared with central government and parastatal agencies. Moreover, much of what is actually implemented is often initiated and administered by the private sector. At the national level, therefore, UMP works not only with public officials and technical staff of central government and parastatal agencies, but also with individual professionals and their organizations in both the government and private sectors, associations of local authorities, research and training institutions, financial institutions, and trade, development and voluntary organizations. These partnerships involve activities such as:

- Identifying and prioritizing critical urban development and urban management issues through a process of consultations, and formulating the corresponding action programme;
- Developing and adapting appropriate urban management policies, standards, systems and procedures, training programmes as well as training materials;
- Formulating and implementing appropriate institutional arrangements among the various levels of government and their respective agencies in the performance of urban development and management responsibilities;
- Developing and adapting effective arrangements for public/private partnerships in urban development programmes with particular attention to community participation and involvement of the informal sector; and
- Workforce training programmes including the training of trainers to improve the operational efficiency of key participants from both the public and private sectors involved in urban management.

Box No. 1
City-level partnerships

In **Bangladesh**, UMP/UNCHS advisors are working with local officials in Dhaka and Chittagong in developing two projects based on integrated action planning, with particular emphasis on land and infrastructure management.

In **Bolivia**, UMP is assisting a UNDP/UNCHS project (BOL/88/020) for the development of El Alto, the fastest-growing city in Bolivia. The assistance includes the introduction of a geographic information system (GIS) for the municipality together with an upgrading in quality and quantity of infrastructure services. (See also separate article in this issue of *UNCHS HABITAT NEWS*.)

In **Kenya**, UMP/UNCHS is working with the Nairobi City Commission in developing guidelines on the privatization of solid-waste-management services in Nairobi; this assistance is provided with UNCHS financial support under project KEN/88/FO1.

In **Pakistan**, UMP/World Bank has worked with local officials in nine provincial cities in Punjab in developing and implementing a SPOT satellite imagery mapping and land information system, to better optimize municipal revenues.

Box No. 2
Country-level partnerships

In **Botswana**, UMP/UNCHS collaborated with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in studying standards and costs of infrastructure and shelter, leading to national efforts to improve the policy and regulatory framework for land and infrastructure development.

In **Jordan**, the UMP/World Bank team worked with national officials in developing a computerized system for the collection of property taxes.

In **Nepal**, the UMP/UNCHS team collaborated with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) in adapting, translating into Nepali, and applying UMP outputs on integrated action planning as training materials for district engineers with planning responsibilities.

In the **Philippines**, UMP collaborated with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in undertaking the Urban Sector Profile with the UMP/UNCHS team contributing the sections on land and infrastructure. This work has directly contributed to the formulation of ADB's first urban development project in the country.

In **Uganda**, a new Environmental Management Act is now being prepared by the UMP/UNCHS team in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). This work specifically highlights the role of local authorities, NGOs and private individuals in managing the environment.

Partnerships at the regional level

In many countries in the developing world, various approaches have been attempted in response to the challenge of urbanization over the past decades. Evolving from a learning-by-doing experience, these approaches have generated valuable experiences in strengthening municipal and regional governments. However, little effort has been placed on evaluating their results, much less disseminating them.

Seeking to extract these lessons of experience and disseminating them among countries within specific regions or sub-regions, UMP is working on the concept of TCDC -- technical cooperation among developing countries. UMP collaborates with regional associations of local authorities, professionals, NGOs, training/research institutions, and regional bodies of bilateral and multilateral agencies. The activities include:

- Exchanging knowledge and experience among individual experts and institutions on best practices and favourable policy options;
- Regional training of trainers in the various fields of urban management, including workshops on the design of training programmes and development of training materials;
- Applied research and cross-country comparative studies of urban management programmes; and

Box No. 3
Regional-level partnerships

In **Asia and the Pacific**, the UMP/UNCHS team is working with nine countries under the Regional Staff Exchange Programme for Urban Management in implementing the exchange of intermediate and senior-level staff based on the work experiences of these staff members in the urban development programmes/projects of their respective countries.

In **Eastern and Southern Africa**, UMP/UNCHS is collaborating with the Ford Foundation in pursuing a research competition on urban poverty. This programme expects to contribute to the work with Southern Africa Development Coordination Council (SADCC) in developing its urban sector agenda and to involve regional institutions such as the African Research Network for Urban Management (ARNUM), as partners in the programme.

In **Eastern and Western Africa**, UMP gears its collaboration with the World Bank, UNDP and several bilateral agencies on the Municipal Development Programme (MDP) at strengthening the urban management capacity of municipal governments.

In **Latin America**, UMP -- with the Canadian International Development Agency (through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities), Economic Development Institute, UNCHS (Habitat), International Union of Local Authorities, and four national institutions -- is working towards the institutional development of SACDEL (Regional System of Training for Local Development and the Improvement of Municipal Administration in Latin America) member organizations.

- Establishment of regional panels of expertise in urban management that are available to countries requesting UMP involvement.

Partnerships at the global level

At the global level, UMP works with bilateral and multilateral ESAs, international professional organizations, and global networks of local authorities, governmental agencies and NGOs in such activities as:

- Designing and coordinating the implementation of technical cooperation programmes supportive of national and regional capacity-building programmes in urban management;
- Organizing inter-regional workshops to synthesize lessons learned and disseminating research outputs and related materials at the regional level;
- Developing appropriate investment packages and lending programmes which are responsive to critical urban priorities; and
- Strengthening cooperation between institutions and UMP partners allowing more strategic involvement of UMP in national programmes to foster economic productivity, social development and the alleviation of poverty.

Box No. 4
Global-level partnerships

UMP has assisted in the coordination of development aid at the country, regional and global levels by attracting bilateral donors as programme partners. These ESAs have funded technical experts, studies, and country programmes throughout the world.

UMP is influencing United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) programmes such as Asia-Pacific 2000 which supports NGO efforts in urban environment, and the Metropolitan Environmental Improvement Programme (MEIP) in Asia. UMP influence is also manifested, for example in the special theme paper on urbanization in the UNDP *Human Development Report 1990*.

At UNCHS (Habitat), UMP is part of the Technical Cooperation Division, enabling UMP to influence both directly and indirectly many UNCHS technical cooperation programmes. Moreover, the UMP/UNCHS team has collaborated with global agencies such as OECD/DAC in formulating its agenda on urban development; with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) in developing a Joint Programme for Mobilizing Community Resources for Improving the Living Environment and Income Generation; with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Asian Development Bank in formulating an urbanization strategy for Asia-Pacific; with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in formulating a regional programme on the management of medium- sized cities in Latin America; and with UNEP on the pilot project on development of urban/environmental data using satellite remote sensing.

The expected results

The partners in urban management are numerous and diverse. Strengthening their individual as well as collective capacities in contributing to sustainable urban development is UMP's primary goal. Assessing the impact of UMP will not be simple since the Programme is concerned with a process that is interactive and dynamic.

At the city and national levels, the impact of UMP may be measured by the effectiveness of municipal governments. Effectiveness, in turn, is defined as:

- Responsiveness to the needs arising from urban growth, especially the needs of the urban poor;
- Technical competence in the choice, design and implementation of investments in infrastructure and essential urban services, and in their operation and maintenance;
- Financial viability, based upon vigorous optimization of the local revenue base and sound financial management; and
- Equity, efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources, through good planning and budgeting, project development, and workforce utilization.

At the regional and global levels, UMP expects to impact on the effectiveness of external support from bilateral and multilateral agencies to developing countries in pursuit of better urban management.

It is noteworthy that the Commission on Human Settlements during its thirteenth session in Harare earlier this year endorsed UMP, recommending "that member Governments extend and deepen partnership arrangements with UMP and utilize it as a mechanism for increasing collaboration and coordination in addressing the urgent issue of managing human settlements".

Bolivia: A computerized cadastral system to aid urban development

One of the traditional sources of income for municipalities in Bolivia has been property tax. Yet cadastral information is not up-to-date, and traditional procedures for such updating would be inefficient. In 1986, the Government instituted a tax reform which, among other things, centralized the process of collection, lowered the number of taxes to be collected, and removed the municipalities' role as tax collectors.

Thus in the past few years, even though property taxation has been growing in real terms, the municipalities have not taken part in the re-cadastralization process. (A transitional phase whereby property owners offer sworn statements of the worth of their properties as a basis for taxation is in effect.) In general terms, however, it is estimated that only some 20 per cent of the potential property tax is being collected -- perhaps half that in the majority of municipalities. Yet such taxes provide over 50 per cent of the total municipal revenue -- used to finance public works and services.

A proper cadastre would have many applications, such as the registration of property ownership, registration of mortgage and other legal transactions, thematic mapping, information on land-use and urban services, financial calculations, and so on. With the help of computer systems to relate graphic and analytical data, a cadastral system could serve as a prime instrument for urban and municipal development.

SIS-CAT

With this in mind, SIS-CAT, a low-cost computerized cadastral system, was developed to make best use of property taxation in each city, using local technical and professional skills. SIS-CAT forms part of UNCHS (Habitat)/UNDP project BOL/84/001 -- "Integrated Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Urban Affairs" -- an urban management project. SIS-CAT is involved in setting the guidelines and establishing methodologies for multi-purpose urban re-cadastralization in the principal urban centres of Bolivia, based both on graphic and traditional databases, maps and other more traditional sources such as registration documents.

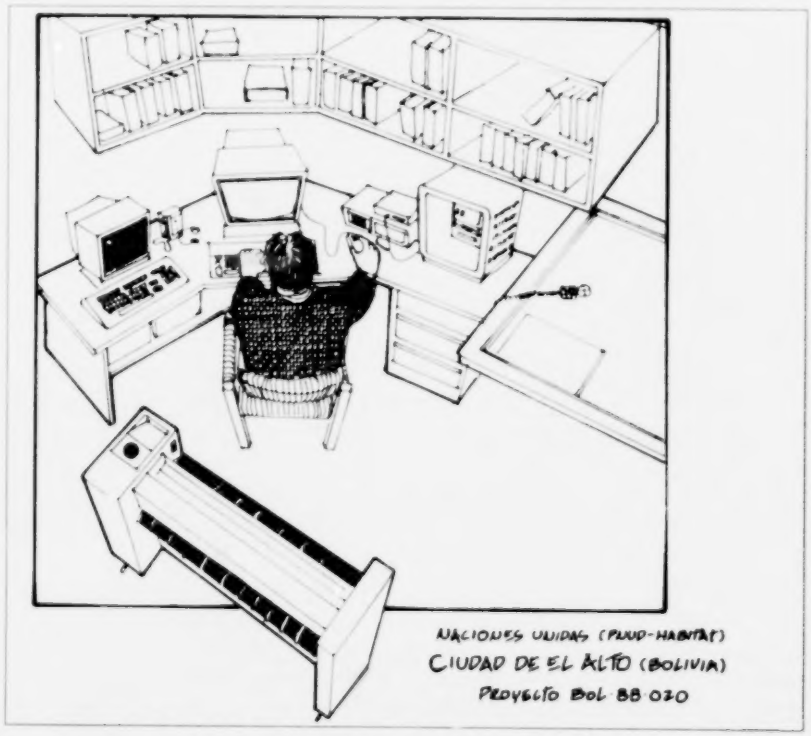
SIS-CAT activities include: the use of aerial photos at a scale of 1:4000, digitizing a basic cadastral map, the undertaking of a field survey of property and urban services, the undertaking of a study of property values, and computerizing all such material whether graphic or not. Finally, mechanisms to implement and update re-cadastralization will be established in each municipality.

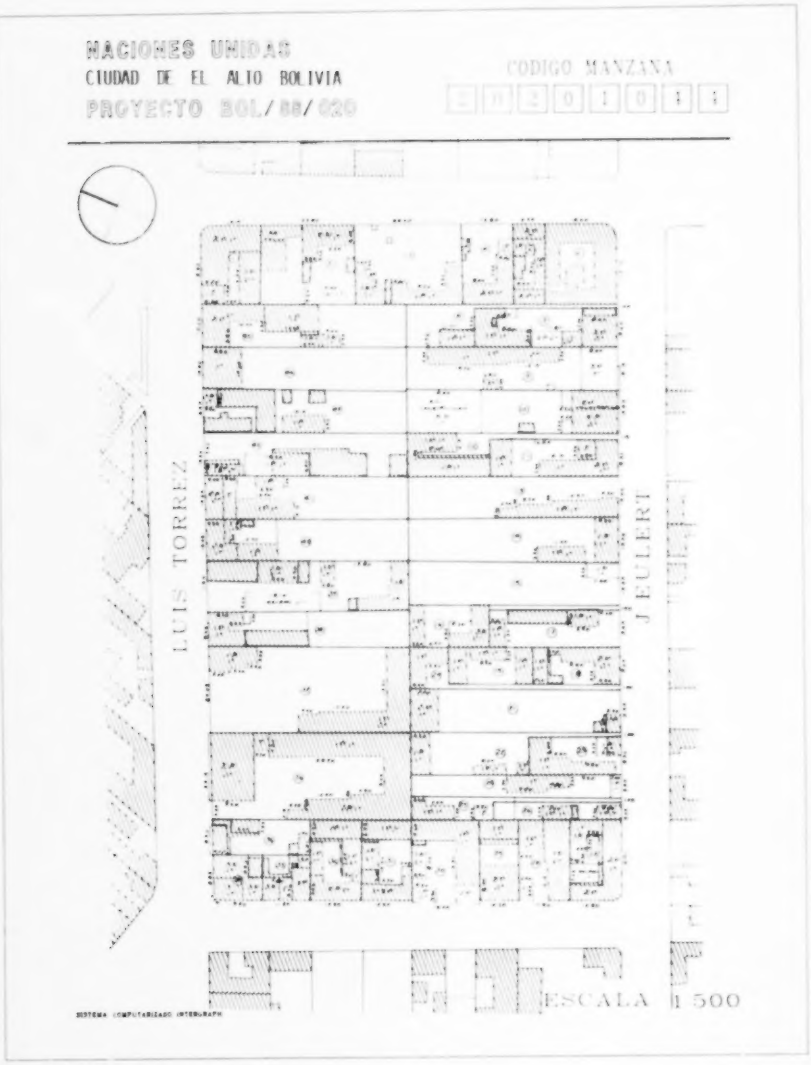
El Alto pilot project, SISCALTO

As part of another UNCHS/UNDP project -- "Urban development in the city of El Alto" (BOL/88/004) -- a cadastral model was set up in 1990/91, applying the SISCAT system to an area of 300 hectares that takes in about 18 per cent of the area of the city of El Alto. It has been dubbed SISCALTO.

The results obtained are very encouraging.

- Data on the 5000 plots and the buildings they contain would suggest that instead of the $US300,000 currently being





A sample SISCALTO printout.

raised by self-evaluation, property taxes might be in the order of $US2.3 million.

- Computerized maps showing the use of land and urban services have been produced.
- Once the Municipal Council obtains the financial resources it is arranging, the process can be extended to the whole city.
- The expense (covering approximately 150,000 plots) would bear an estimated cost of $US1.8 million -- which could easily be recovered through the new tax system.

Conclusion

The SISCALTO pilot study is a fine example of technical cooperation geared at promoting and stimulating the potential of a developing country and of a system which suits the present economic situation. Such an effort will ultimately be able to sustain urban and municipal development.

(Source: Luis B. Vicario, Catastro y desarrollo urbano: Una experiencia demostrativa que apunta al fortalecimiento técnico y económico de un gobierno municipal en vias de desarrollo)

Nepal: Recovery after the earthquake

Early morning in Nepal reveals towns enveloped in a gauzy warmth, the air imbued with the fragrance of jasmine and wood smoke. Women, sari-elegant and serene, bear offerings of scarlet vermilion, flower petals and rice to temple and shrine. Before long the lanes overflow with chattering shoals of schoolchildren, shop shutters rumble awake, cascades of cloth and bicycles, copper, and brassware, spices and vegetables flood the roadsides, enticing wandering cows and hindering pedicabs and furious buses. Dharan Bazaar begins another busy day.

Yet, on the morning of 21 August 1988, this bustling town presented a totally different picture. An earthquake of 6.7 intensity on the Richter scale struck Nepal at 5 a.m. Although the capital, Kathmandu, still farther west, suffered very little damage, the devastation in eastern Nepal (the earthquake's epicentre was at Udayapur in the east) covered an area of 40,000 square kilometres and destroyed over 65,000 homes. The death toll was 721, with over 6000 injured.

Within hours of the disaster - despite torrential rain, after- shocks and landslides which hampered the work - a massive rescue and relief operation was launched by government and other agencies. More than a thousand people were air-lifted from inaccessible areas, and tons of foodstuffs, tents and blankets were distributed.

As four groups carried out post-earthquake surveys (the Asian Institute of Technology, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Japanese Group for the Study of Natural Disaster Science, and the University of Roorkee, India), damage patterns were soon discernible. For example, in the old town centre of Dharan, where two- and three-storey mud-mortared brick houses predominate, damage and loss of life were severe, whereas on the outskirts of town, where homes were either of newly-built timber or concrete-framed, damage was moderate or non-existent. Of the 20,000 buildings in Dharan, 1626 were destroyed, a further 787 had to be demolished and 773 were badly damaged. The costs of rehabilitation was estimated to exceed $US10 million. (See also article pp. 15 and 16 of the August 1990 issue of UNCHS(HABITAT NEWS.)

Recovery

Today, a visit to Dharan will reveal little evidence of the devastation of the recent past. Why? Vigorous community spirit and self-motivation, a strong tradition in Nepal, were backed by the Earthquake Affected Areas Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Project established under the Ministry of Housing and Physical Planning and financed by His Majesty's Government of Nepal. The Government ordered a 3 per cent cut in all

development budgets for the year to meet the immediate needs and later signed a credit agreement with the World Bank for $US29 million. The Project immediately began channeling assistance to the victims of the earthquake to help them restore normal living conditions as quickly as possible. Moreover with technical assistance provided by UNDP and UNCHS (Habitat), they introduced improvements in the rebuilt homes to safeguard lives and property in the future -- all under NEP/88/053.

Housing loan programme

Months of intensive activity followed: setting up and staffing the Project, developing an implementation programme and action plan, establishing 29 offices at regional and district level, preparing drawings and guidance manuals, and instituting a housing loan programme to facilitate rapid reconstruction of homes. Before the end of November, cash, in the form of subsidized loans, was already flowing to needy owner-builders.

This rapid disbursement of funds was made possible by employing the services of three commercial banks using their branches spread throughout the districts. Though the amounts were small (in rural areas the initial pay-out was only NRs 5000 or less than $US170), this did enable people to buy simple but essential materials or pay artisan wages.

Reconstruction committees, consisting of several tiers of government from the ministerial level down to village and town level, were established to authenticate local applications for housing loans. Membership was drawn from community groups as well as local government officials.

Project advisory staff then went into action. After intensive orientation in simple earthquake-mitigation building methods, 270 engineers and technicians were deployed throughout the Project area to advise villagers and masons on how to build safer homes, complete with latrines and smokeless cookstoves.

By the end of the two-year period over NRs512 million ($US17 million) in loans had been dispersed and utilized by 52,884 households. Using well-loved, vernacular architecture, most dwellings have now been rebuilt or refurbished. Soon another enormous task will be finished: computerizing all the loan statistics from over 300 branch banks.

Rebuilding schools

However, the overall task was - and is - far from complete. Every Nepal village is proud of its school. Education is held in such high esteem that since 1951, when only 200 schools existed, more than 15,000 have been built - almost entirely by community participation. Naturally, the materials used in construction were those to be found in the vicinity of the site, while local artisans provided the technical know-how. However, the result was a very large proportion of classrooms built with boulders and mud, which were easily destroyed in the earthquake. Over 13,000 collapsed and many more were seriously damaged. School reconstruction therefore formed the second major component of the Project.

Devising a suitable strategy which would maintain the supportive community spirit, yet provide adequate help with reconstruction after the earthquake, was not easy. Two fundamental criteria were established: first, communities should undertake rebuilding work themselves and, secondly, Government financial contribution would be limited. In addition, there had to be an assurance that the new buildings would provide a safe and secure environment.

What evolved was partnership, a sharing of the burden. The Project would shoulder 75 per cent of the total building cost, consisting mostly of material supplies, and the community would make up the rest. After considering many options, the Project decided to manufacture a strong, light framework, a skeleton around which any suitable local material comprising the walls could be wrapped. The design was simple but innovative. The roof is of corrugated iron, and simple metal door and window frames are fixed to the steel frame. The whole structure requires only ten bags of cement, which are supplied by the Project, together with reinforcement for plinth and sill bands which provide horizontal bracing.

The Project set up storage depots at strategic positions from which construction materials could be distributed to the schools. If a road existed, goods were delivered right to the site. Where there was no road, materials were dropped at a point on the road nearest the school and the Project helped pay the cost of hiring porters to carry the materials the rest of the way. In addition, the communities were responsible for preparing the building site, collecting locally-available materials such as walling stone or brick, gravel and sand, and then carrying out the actual construction.

Building work is done in two stages. The first stage, up to the window-sill level, takes from three to four weeks and is done under the guidance of a project technician. The second, completing the walls and doing other finishing jobs, can be finished by the community at its own pace, though technical supervision is still provided when required. The need for teaching space is so pressing that classrooms are often occupied within the first few weeks of commencing the work, by the time the roof sheets are in place.

Although the building year in rural Nepal is probably only six months long - as it is governed by the farming seasons, the long summer monsoons and by the many festivals that brighten and relieve the hard cycle of everyday life - 1668 classrooms have been distributed and erected since mid-1989 and another 3000 will be delivered this year. The reconstruction programme is due for completion in two years' time.

Vulnerability

Today though, as these lines are being written, another earthquake of force five intensity is reported from Nepal. Hardly a week goes by without some fresh reminder that far below the surface of this tranquil mountain kingdom, enormous unpredictable forces are at work. An earthquake may last only a few brief moments, yet leave terrible destruction in its wake. Can something be done? The answer is yes. The effects of earthquakes are well tabulated and construction methods that can drastically reduce those effects are also well known. The work of the Earthquake Reconstruction Project will continue, conveying to those most at risk - the ordinary people - the building skills which can save their homes and their lives.

Sean McCarthy
Chief Technical Advisor

UNCHS (Habitat) in the Arab States

Despite the Gulf crisis, all UNCHS (Habitat) projects in the Arab States were operational except those in Somalia and Yemen, where two projects had to come to an end a few weeks prior to their scheduled completion dates. Several missions were fielded immediately upon the end of the Gulf war. All these missions are important, since the UNDP fifth cycle starts in January 1991, and it is hoped to include the proposed ac-

tivities in their respective Country Programmes. It should be noted with satisfaction that those missions obtained the support and assistance of all UNDP Resident Representatives and their offices.

■ Egypt

A five-week formulation mission was carried out by a consultant who met with several senior officials, particularly H.E. the Minister of Development, New Towns, Housing and Public Utilities. The consultant also conducted meetings with the Governors of Cairo, Giza, Alexandria and Ismailia. In his final report, he identified some potential areas of cooperation in several fields of physical planning. He also formulated a project document on "Sustainable Cities" for Ismailia.

Follow-up action is under way in order to coordinate with the Government of Egypt and the UNDP field office.

■ Kuwait

Earlier this year, the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) had constituted a Task Force on the Gulf Crisis. He also assigned a senior international consultant to conduct a two-week, identification mission together with Mr. Ismail Hammad, the Senior Human Settlements Adviser in charge of cooperation with the Arab States.

The mission conducted meetings with several senior officials, particularly H.E. the Minister of Housing, H.E. the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, H.E. the Minister of Planning, and H.E. the Minister of Social Welfare and Labour -- all of whom welcomed cooperation with UNCHS (Habitat).

It is worth noting that the mission's objectives coincided with the Kuwaiti Government's six-month Emergency Plan, which will be followed by another long-term development plan, and therefore obtained the tentative endorsement of all nationals met. The mission's objectives also matched those outlined in the UNDP-proposed "Transitional Programme" of three-year duration. That Transitional Programme had already been discussed and submitted to the Government, and adoption is expected shortly, after endorsement by UNDP in New York.

The Transitional Programme covers several areas of cooperation between the Government of Kuwait and UNDP. It includes two major components where UNCHS (Habitat) can extend its technical assistance. These are:

(a) Assistance for the strengthening and maintenance of basic municipal services, which includes:

- Management and management systems support;
- Institutional building and policies;
- Technical assistance for the development of human resources;
- Monitoring and control of contracted services; and Training.

(b) Assistance for the management and control of the physical reconstruction processes, which includes:

- Performance monitoring and evaluation;
- Results impact assessment.

Using the above guidelines, UNCHS (Habitat) will submit its proposed cooperation, and will shortly field consultants to formulate their respective project documents.

The mission also held several meetings with representatives of the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Environment Programme, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization, as background to future cooperation in the fields of infrastructure of the coastal areas, desertification, and shelter and welfare. (Those tasks were proposed by the Kuwait Action Plan resulting from the Inter-Agency Consultations held in Geneva in February and March 1991, in which UNCHS (Habitat) participated.)

Field visits were conducted to the Al-Abdali Refugee Camp, which hosts more than 5000 refugees, on the northern border with Iraq, as well as to the close-by burning oil wells, and to those in the Al-Ahmadi in the southern part of the country. Environmental conditions are extremely dangerous, particularly in Al-Ahmadi where everything is black, including buildings, trees, desert sand and even grazing sheep. About eighty per cent of the population has abandoned their houses. Representatives of UNDP and UNEP were particularly helpful, given the prevailing difficult conditions.

Surveying the damage in Kuwait. *CREDIT: UN PHOTO 158121 /J. ISAAC*

■ Syrian Arab Republic

A three-week identification mission was conducted in the Syrian Arab Republic by a consultant. This mission was a follow-up to a meeting between H.E. the Prime Minister, and a senior staff member of UNCHS (Habitat). After meeting with H.E. the Minister of Housing, the consultant conducted meetings with other senior officials -- including almost all Governors. In his report, he proposed several areas of future cooperation which have the endorsement of the Government, and are likely to obtain the approval of UNDP.

■ Tunisia

See photo story below.

■ United Arab Emirates

A two-week evaluation mission was conducted by a UNCHS consultant plus a representative of UNDP and the Municipality of Dubai. The mission evaluated project UAE/85/012 - Institutional Support to Dubai Municipality.

In its report, the mission acknowledged the achievements of the project and recommended its extension for two more years.

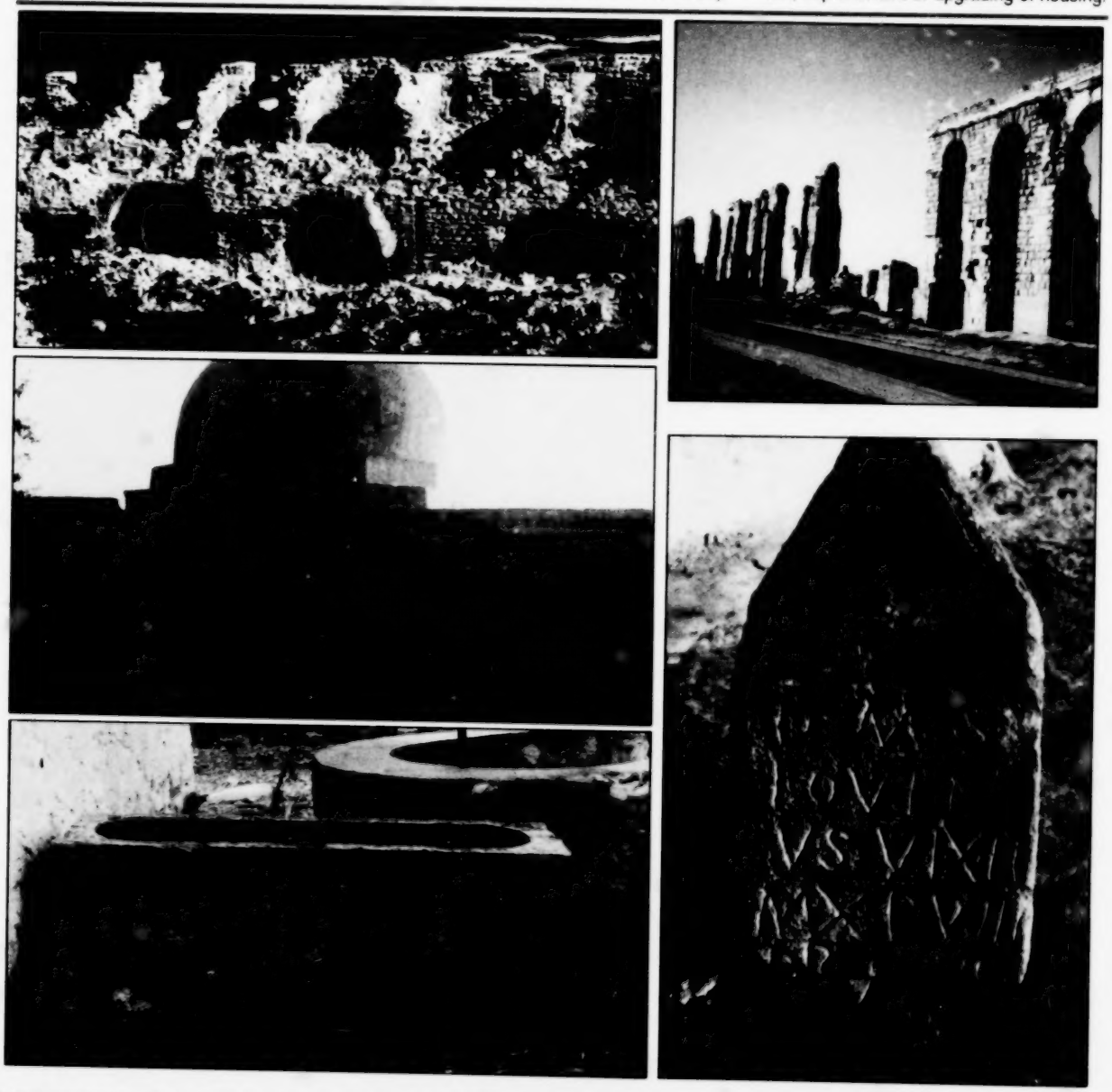
■ Yemen

A four-week human settlements sector analysis mission was conducted by an international consultant in cooperation with the national consultant. In addition to field visits to Aden and Hudaydah, the mission met with H.E. the Minister of Housing and Urban Development, as well as senior staff of that Ministry and the Ministry of Planning.

The mission identified four areas of cooperation in the fields of institutional support, community participation and self-help, and disaster preparedness.

Venezuela: Shelter for all becomes a priority

The housing policy law of Venezuela -- which was first implemented last year -- allocates 5 per cent of the national budget plus a compulsory nation-wide housing savings scheme (whereby 3 per cent of all the payrolls are allocated to shelter) to construction, improvement or upgrading of housing.



Original artwork for the article on Tunisia arrived too late to be included in the April 1991 issue of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS. Thus we dedicate this page of this issue to portray a sampling of the archaeological and historical heritage being preserved as part of project TUN/86/009. It spans centuries and covers a variety of religious and cultural artefacts.

The goal is to shelter all by the year 2005, which target will be met through, for example, the construction of 3 million new units in that period.

The National Housing Council has been set up under the new law to coordinate existing shelter agencies and periodically to update housing policies. This Council is to formulate the five-year housing plans and yearly programmes, coordinate public/private sector participation, oversee the use of resources and monitor progress, determine the rates of interest on shelter loans, promote housing research, stimulate the creation of housing cooperatives, keep an up-to-date national registry of builders and developers, maintain statistics on the programmes and provide technical assistance to local institutions.

The plan includes three areas of assistance. The first benefits households with an income of less than three minimum monthly salaries (74 per cent of the population fall in this category), using resources from the public sector and from housing savings. The price of dwelling units in this case will be no more than 65 minimum monthly salaries. The second uses funds from the housing savings scheme to finance dwelling units at a price below 180 minimum monthly salaries, while the third finances housing at a price of up to 300 minimum monthly salaries (400 in Caracas), using funds from other sources.

The main housing solutions are:

* sites and services,
* core housing,
* dwellings for sale or rent,
* credit for construction, purchasing, enlarging or improving housing,
* credit for the construction of rental housing,
* technical, organizational and legal assistance.

Venezuela is undergoing a process of decentralization, which started with the popular election of mayors and state governors. New local housing institutions have been created, as these governors are giving housing a high priority.

Serviceable land is almost nonexistent in Caracas, and scarce in other main cities. Inflation rates (above 30 per cent in the last four years, and up to 81 per cent in 1989) have increased the cost of building materials and labour. Existing institutions, including one with 60 years of experience, have had to adapt themselves to the new processes, created not only by the housing law, but also by decentralization, and other new legislation for land development.

Following a recent mission by UNCHS (Habitat) representative Mr. O. Gómez-Villa, talks have started to set up a technical cooperation project between the Centre and the National Housing Council, to provide input for the implementation of the housing law.

ECE workshop on housing policies in "transition" countries

In September 1990 the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Housing, Building and Planning decided that a series of workshops be organized to help Central and Eastern European countries in the transition process with the reformulation of housing and planning policies. During these workshops, experts and policy-makers from the West share their experiences and lessons learned with their counterparts from the Eastern European countries.

The first workshop was held at Bucharest, Romania, in December 1990 and was devoted to rent policies. The second workshop, held at Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, in April 1991, focused on housing finance. The third workshop will take place at Berlin in October 1991 and will deal with public-private partnership.

In "transition" countries (TCs) 50 per cent of the housing is privately owned, 30 per cent belongs to the State, local governments and public companies and 20 per cent to cooperatives. The latter 50 per cent of the housing is basically identical as they were all built by the same public companies with large prefabricated panels -- the only difference being that households have to pay more to join cooperatives and to rent cooperative flats.

Today, however, the housing sector has reached a standstill in these countries. From 1988 to 1990 the production of new dwellings has dropped. The centrally-planned systems do not work any longer and future solutions have yet to be established.

Housing finance

During the second workshop on housing finance, Western experts explained to their counterparts how their experience has shown that the implementation of any enabling strategy requires strong governmental involvement, a clear policy, efficient public institutions, well-designed subsidies and a step-by-step approach.

Eastern European experts explained that people's political expectations sometimes do not allow policy makers to take rational financial decisions. There is also an obvious lack of studies, appraisals, simulations and expertise everywhere. International comparisons, seminars, workshops, and networking are thus particularly welcome.

Following active and stimulating discussions, the following recommendations were made concerning housing finance:

* Turn over existing State-owned buildings to local governments to create housing agencies which will rent or sell them. Rents should gradually rise to 25 per cent of household incomes while housing allowances should be set up for low-income families. Only in a second phase should the sale of flats be considered.
* Establish a saving-for-housing system based on regular monthly deposits followed by loans at low (subsidized) rates of interest to encourage people to buy or build private flats and houses.
* Use subsidies to provide housing allowances and soft loans to households as well as to housing producers/developers by means of cheap land, short-term loans and tax deductions.
* Keep land prices under control to avoid the rapid growth of housing prices, particularly in big towns and city centres.
* Ask public and private enterprises to pay 1 to 5 per cent of employees' salaries to a national housing fund which would be used to lower the interest on housing loans for their employees.
* Prepare new legislation, both attractive to investors and affordable to customers, within which the housing market can operate properly.
* Create specialized housing-finance institutions and appropriate housing-finance systems within existing financial institutions for mobilizing savings and credit distribution.

The UNCHS representative, Mr. Daniel Biau, also briefed the participants about the UNCHS ongoing Task Force on future technical cooperation activities in Central and Eastern Europe, a report on which will be presented in a future issue of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS.

Environmental Health and Human Settlements

Human settlements - in the broad context of shelter, related amenities and neighbourhood - represents the environment most intimate to human beings, especially women and children who are the most intensive users of the dwelling-place.

In virtually all developing countries the last 40 years have brought very rapid growth in total and, particularly, urban populations. In many countries, a substantial proportion of this growth has been concentrated in one city as new investments, employment opportunities and government jobs have located there. Already cities in the developing world are absorbing two thirds of the total national population increase.

One of the most important consequences of such phenomenal population growth, which has implications for human environmental health, has been the chaotic, spatial and physical growth of cities. It is now the norm to find residential zones next to industrial sites, or industries enveloped by housing estates, with all the potential risks to environmental health. Accompanying this trend in urban human settlements development has been the rapid growth of settlements housing the poor: it is not uncommon for such settlements to grow at twice the rate of the more formal parts of the city. Most of the urban poor live in overcrowded conditions in tenements, cheap boarding houses, squatter settlements or illegal subdivisions. In most cities in developing countries, between a third and two thirds of all inhabitants live in illegal settlements with inadequate or no provision of infrastructure and services.

The following classification provides a systematic overview of **human-settlements-related health determinants** and their implications for community health.

Housing-related

Healthy housing is usually thought to protect against health hazards, but too often the house itself becomes a threat to health. Inadequate housing design provides insect vectors with new living space. The best example is Chagas' disease in South America with a morbidity of 17 million, where the bug likes to hide in small in-house crevices. It has been estimated that more than 90 different vectors either breed on the body of people in and around the house or fly into the house to feed. They can cause or carry more than 50 different diseases. Simple interventions aimed at housing-design and building-improvement could reduce the health risk.

Crowding is a serious problem in cities of developing countries. In many low-income settlements the available living space may range between 2 and 10 m2 perhaps, leaving seven or more persons to share one room. This cramped situation poses a high risk of exposure to communicable diseases (such as measles, meningitis, tuberculosis) and is closely associated with high blood lead levels for children, high stress levels, frequent accidents, burns and poisoning.

Water-supply related

Gastrointestinal and other communicable diseases are currently responsible for 45 per cent of all deaths in children under four years of age, and the major cause of death is diarrhoeal disease.

Many health problems are linked to water - its quality, the quantity available, the cost and time needed to obtain it and the provision made for its removal once used. Hundreds of millions of urban dwellers have no alternative but to use contaminated water - or water the quality of which is not guaranteed. A small minority have water piped into their homes while many more have water piped to a standpipe nearby. The quantity of

Human settlements-related environmental health determinants	Disease Groups		
	Communicable diseases	Non-communicable diseases*	Mental illness and psychological disorders
I. Building-related health determinants	1. Building-related insect vector diseases 2. Overcrowding-related diseases	1. Dust/smoke/damp-induced diseases 2. Insect-related infections 3. Poisoning	1. Psychic stress, neuroses and psychoses
II. Water supply-related health determinants	1. Faeco-oral (water-borne and water-washed diseases) 2. Non-faeco-oral water-washed diseases 3. Water-based diseases 4. Water-related insect vector diseases	1. Water-based diseases 2. Water-washed carcinomas	(none)
III. Sanitation-related health determinants	1. Non-bacterial faeco-oral diseases 2. Bacterial faeco-oral diseases 3. Geohelminthiases 4. Toeniases 5. Water-based helminthiases 6. Excreta-related insect vector diseases	(none)	(none)
IV. Refuse-related health determinants	1. Refuse-related insect vector diseases 2. Refuse-related rodent vector diseases	1. Poisoning 2. Accidents	1. Psychic stress, neuroses, psychoses
V. Food-related health determinants	1. Food-borne diseases	1. Food-borne diseases	1. (Typhoid psychosis)
VI. Industry-related health determinants	(none)	1. Diseases due to industrial pollutants and toxicants 2. Poisoning 3. Accidents	1. Psychiatric organic disorders due to industrial toxicants 2. Psychic stress, neuroses and psychoses
VII. Natural and social environment-related health determinants	1. Drainage and flooding-related diseases	1. Diseases due to animal faeces 2. Diseases due to animal bites	1. Psychic stress, neuroses and psychoses 2. Violence (mugging, rape, homicide) 3. Delinquency and vandalism 4. Drug and alcohol abuse

* Defined, for the present purpose, as diseases for which person-to-person transmission does not occur or is epidemiologically unimportant.

water available to a household and the price which has to be paid can be as important to a family's health as its quality. Limited quantities of water mean inadequate supplies for washing and personal hygiene - and for washing food, cooking utensils and clothes. Eye and ear infections, skin diseases, scabies, lice and fleas are difficult to control without sufficient water supplies.

Sanitation-related

More than two billion people - approximately 60 per cent of all those who live in the third world - have no sanitary means to dispose of human wastes. An even greater number lack adequate means to dispose of their other wastewater, known as sullage. At present, little over half of the third world's urban population have access to adequate sanitation, even where adequate sanitation is defined in the most modest terms possible and based on government estimates.

Excreta-related diseases include parasitic, bacterial and viral diseases. The latter two disease groups have high levels of morbidity and mortality, and, in the case of diarrhoea, kill some 5 million people each year. Parasitic diseases, with a relative low mortality rate but a high rate of morbidity, can best be reduced by sanitation programmes (i.e. ventilated improved pit latrines or pour-flush latrines on-site or small-bore sewers or shallow sewers off-site).

Refuse-related

The problem of refuse in developing countries grows with population density and wealth. In areas with low per capita income all articles are recycled until they are of no use. In these societies little waste accumulates. Grave medical and hygiene problems, however, arise where rich and poor have to live in close vicinity. What is waste for the one becomes a valuable resource for the other. Though domestic solid wastes are rarely toxic they are capable of providing sites for the breeding of disease vectors as well as presenting an aesthetic and olfactory nuisance.

Between 30 and 50 per cent of all solid wastes generated within urban centres in developing countries remain uncollected. Disease vectors such as rats, mosquitoes and flies proliferate on garbage; where human excreta are added, the health risks are considerable. The majority of vector-borne diseases could also be reduced by reducing the number of breeding sites through proper waste management - entailing waste collection, transport and treatment. Other fast-growing health threats presented by inadequate solid waste management are those associated with the release of harmful gases during burning and the illegal and careless disposal of toxic and radioactive materials.

The groups with the highest exposure to these waste-related health threats are those which rely on collecting and sorting waste for a living, and often, as in the case of a whole suburb in one city, have to store the collected waste in their living-quarters until bulk sale is possible.

Food-related

The process of urbanization for the middle and upper classes is usually related to a change in dietary intake - a higher consumption of sugar and fat and lower intake of crude fibre which results in a higher cholesterol level, obesity and less physical activity, all of which increase the risk of ischaemic heart disease. However in poverty-stricken urban settlements the change in diet is accompanied by consumption levels that are substantially below minimum requirements, causing severe malnutrition.

Access to food poses a severe problem for the poor. Land for urban cropping is scarce and the areas where they can grow their own food are often located on the least desirable spots, such as on former waste dumps or adjoining polluting industrial sites.

It is important to note that rural mothers generally breastfeed longer than others. This is probably related to higher employment rates in the urban and peri-urban areas, where mothers have to rely on artificial feeding provided by surrogate mothers or child minders -- a high risk factor for malnutrition and infant mortality in the first six months of life.

Apart from nutritional consideration, food is a medium for the intake of toxic chemicals and micro-biological agents; infections of the latter are the most common type of food-related diseases. The dwellings of people in low-income groups often have few or no facilities for storing food to protect it against spoilage and contamination. Moreover, inadequate water supplies and washing facilities make the hygienic cleaning and storage of cooking utensils very difficult.

Industry-related

Low-income settlements often develop in areas which are unhealthy and/or where there are high noise levels, for example next to main roads or airports. Traffic accidents, especially among children, are a serious hazard, while close proximity to industrial complexes exposes inhabitants to both subliminal and accidental poisoning and scalding. The chemical leak at Bhopal and the oil refinery fire in São Paulo in recent years are only two of the most dramatic and horrifying examples.

Toxic chemicals and their potential health impacts are growing in importance in many low-income settlements. Informal-sector manufacturing is often located within the living quarters or in the backyard. Not abiding by any environmental safety standards, such enterprises are a major source of air, noise, soil and water pollution in and around the immediate vicinity of the house. The multiple pollutants cause a severe health threat due to the exacerbating effect of multiple exposure. Studies at intra-urban levels reveal that these highly exposed areas are characterized by high cancer mortalities. Green buffer zones, for example, could be used to separate large, polluting industries from residential areas.

Related to natural and social environment

Many low-income settlements are located on the least desirable land and are thus prone to natural and man-made hazards. The death toll due to flooding, landslides, hurricanes, volcanoes, fires or collapsing homes is high. Neighbouring toxic dump sites and polluting industries are an added health burden. There is an urgent need for sound human settlements environment management measures to address these issues. The availability of safe sites for low-income settlements is crucial. Simple interventions such as surface water drainage could also drastically alleviate the health burden, in terms of accidents and diseases.

Profound changes in life-style and considerable stress await urban migrants. Insecurity of tenure, a shortage of available land, emergency services and street lighting compound the problems of crime and threats to physical security, posing another source of stress in low-income settlements. Little is, however, known about the contribution environmental conditions make towards stress-related diseases (such as hypertension, migraine, depression, neurosis, psychosis, alcoholism and drug abuse).

Strongly dichotomized human settlements undergoing rapid urbanization

Unhealthy conditions, prevention and cure.

Photo credit (lower right) Mark Edwards/UNCHS

accompanied by rapid economic and, often, political change as well. have been associated with rising levels of political instability, uncertainty and violence. In these societies up to 50 per cent of the registered injuries can be caused by interpersonal violence. Trauma rates are increasing drastically, with alarming rates of losses of millions of potential years of life due to non-natural causes. These trauma losses are highest in the economically most active age and professional groups.

A need for action

Great emphasis is currently placed on curative medicine in national development plans. Yet the major causes of death and ill-health - which are rooted in poverty and poor living conditions - remain insufficiently addressed. Health officials clearly need to be aware of the importance of habitat to human health just as housing officials need to appreciate the elements of health-protecting design and management practices in human settlements.

Thus the vital need to take an inter-sectoral approach to improving the human living environment in a way that will enable the incorporation of health objectives in shelter and human settlements improvement programmes.

In a bid to increase understanding of the environmental health aspects of human settlements, UNCHS has initiated a research programme within its Research and Development Division centred around five areas identified at the Centre's Expert Group Meeting on "Environmental Health Aspects of Human Settlements in Developing Countries" held in Leeds, United Kingdom on 20-21 March 1991. They are:

- Production of a comprehensive authoritative and interdisciplinary book entitled "Housing and Health: Environmental Health Aspects of Human Settlements in Developing Countries". Aimed at architects, engineers, urban planners and health personnel alike, the book will attempt to provide insight into the health impact of human-settlements-related activities and elaborate on appropriate human settlements interventions aimed at addressing critical health problems;
- Research on the health impact of overcrowding and land tenure systems in low-income settlements;
- Development of a community-based information system based on suitable indicators combining health and human settlements and aimed at increasing environmental awareness and enabling communities to design their own interventions;
- Development of a citywide geographical information system, allowing the assessment and ranking of environmental health risks and proposing corresponding human settlements interventions;
- Research on the relationship between housing incurred debt, incomes and community health.

Collaborating with several multilateral and national institutions in this field, the Centre hopes to conduct country-related research on the above topics in the cities of Accra, Ghana; Jakarta, Indonesia; and São Paulo, Brazil.

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Bolivia: Community participation training expanded and consolidated using innovative materials

The UNCHS/DANIDA Community Participation Training Project BOL/87/F05, set up as a unit within the Ministry of Urban Affairs, supports community participation activities in 83 housing projects throughout the country. The main beneficiaries of this type of training are the communities involved -- which number some 37,000 residents, and the technical teams assigned to these housing projects also undergo training. The Project has developed a series of training-support and audio-visual materials on subjects relating to self-help construction, women's participation, finance and -- more recently -- to health and housing, and the maintenance and proper use of space in the dwelling.

The impact of these materials on the expansion and consolidation of training has been considerable. In the latter half of 1990, emphasis was placed on women's participation in the training sessions -- and 46 per cent of the participants were, indeed, women. Training was also extended to schoolchildren and youth. This can be seen in the following chart -- which shows the range of beneficiaries of the project's training programme.

Over the past few years, the Project has extended its collaboration to other institutions, extending its area of activities through a number of inter-institutional seminars. By establishing working relations with health units, town councils and non-governmental organizations or NGOs, training materials produced by BOL/87/F05 have been used to support the work of a variety of these institutions. In 1990/91, due to an extensive distribution of the Project training materials combined with wide outreach work, a broad range of institutions came to know directly the work of the Project.

This has resulted in a marked increase in the number of requests for support from the Project for:

- Assistance in the production of training materials,
- Advice on the planning and execution of training programmes,
- Information on the Project's training methodology, and
- Exchange of training experiences.

What is it about the material that so attracts attention? For one thing, it fills a gap. A search of training materials put out by other institutions noted that few made the link between health and housing conditions. Thus the Project's focus on living conditions and related themes: hygiene, optimal use of house space, a safe environment, and basic sanitation.

A poster "Hygiene in the house protects the health" and a tabloid-size cartoon booklet "My house -- my health" were prepared as a result of the institutional search for related training materials. Initially, 15,000 copies of the poster were printed for massive distribution in the housing projects and institutions. In February 1991, with the threat of a cholera outbreak in Bolivia, the poster was republished as part of the contribution of the Ministry of Urban Affairs (MUA) to the prevention campaign. Therefore an additional 15,000 were distributed -- targeted at isolated areas of the country and at public places where the information could easily reach the people.

Pretesting of the training material is regarded as a vital part of materials development. Some 8000 copies of the booklet were first produced in black and white for a participatory evaluation exercise with schoolchildren. In the booklet Pedrito, the story-teller, discovers the links between a lack of hygiene in the home, and six major diseases which cause infant mortality. He then goes on to provide practical advice on a healthy home. In October and November 1990, some 7000 schoolchildren took part in different events -- concerts, open classrooms, painting competitions, poetry writing, socio-dramas and parades. Children, older youth and mothers as well as teachers got in on the act, showing a strong multiplier effect. The material is now being adapted and expanded on the basis of feedback received.

Other training material produced for use at the community level includes a maintenance manual "How we take care of our house" and a calendar for 1990 and 1991. Again, the material has been widely tested, and the target audience has expanded. "Como cuidamos nuestra casa", which provides simple technical advice on repairs, was widely field-tested in various regions of the country. There is now one version for the *altiplano* and another for the valleys. In this case, beneficiaries from nine projects in El Alto and seven in Cochabamba participated -- both as individuals and in small discussion groups -- in developing the flipchart plus accompanying booklet.

The 1990 calendar on the prevention of accidents in the home "Better prevent than lament" was distributed among the beneficiaries of the housing projects -- and to health units, town councils, NGOs and other United Nations programmes and projects. Dissemination was accomplished by training a number of community first-aid workers, especially women and young girls -- those responsible for the care of children in the home. The next year, the print run was more than doubled for a calendar on maintenance -- which had been one of the main areas for training in 1990. The calendar will serve as a reminder of what has been discussed in past training sessions. It was distributed in the 103 housing projects, to the central and regional offices of MUA and to other ministries dealing with the social sector, regional health units, town councils, development corporations, community-based projects within the United Nations system as well as 48 NGOs and CBOs.

Such efforts, then, show how the training programme has managed to reach not only

Audio-visual materials are tested and applied as part of project BOL/87/F05.

Summary chart of training materials published in 1990/91	
Description	**Print run**
1990 Calendar	7 500
Maintenance Manual: "Como cuidamos nuestra casa" - Altiplano version - Valley version	 4 000 4 000
Poster: "La higiene en casa protege la salud"	30,000
Cartoon Magazine: "Mi casa - mi salud"	8 000
1991 Calendar	15,000

direct but also indirect beneficiaries via its publications. In the course of preparing and testing the material, the evaluation as well as training skills of the Project personnel have been strengthened -- all as part of the overall training in community participation.

A number of overall lessons have been learnt in phase two of the programme, and will be applied to the continuing efforts in community-participation training. They include the following:

1. In the Latin American context, training and community participation in human settlements cannot be seen as ends in themselves, but rather as instruments by which communities can improve their living conditions.

2. In designing a training programme it is fundamental to recognize the existing tradition of cooperation and reciprocity which exists within communities in Bolivia.

3. Training for improvement of human settlements is largely a "hands on" learning process. This is valid for the communities as well as for the technicians, NGOs and local governments involved.

4. It is important to make a distinction between participatory learning and formal training. In the DANIDA/UNCHS Training Programme, the trainer and trainee roles are not fixed. The relationship is one of mutual learning, that is, the trainer learns from the knowledge base, the customs and culture of the community, as well as imparting information or new ideas to the community.

5. To make community participation an institutionalized element of low-income housing and shelter strategies, especially at the local level, all principal actors will have to be brought together: CBOs, NGOs, cooperatives, State organizations and the local governments. Institutionalization in this sense is not conceptualized as the establishment of a permanent entity but rather through an inter-institutional and inter-sectoral strategy.

6. In Latin America a wealth of experience exists in specific areas related to community participation and settlement planning. It would be mutually beneficial to exchange information and experiences with other institutions and agencies in the region.

Improving small-scale lime production in Central America

Over the past six years, Appropriate Technology International (ATI) has been working in collaboration with the Costa Rica Institute of Technology (ITRC) and the Costa Rica Technology Foundation (FUNDATEC) to improve small-scale lime-production methods. These efforts have focused on introducing modifications to traditional lime kilns to improve their thermal efficiency and productivity, and on developing quality-control measures and standards. The experience in Costa Rica is particularly relevant to other countries in Central America, since traditional lime-processing methods are similar throughout the region.

Such efforts are parallel to those of UNCHS and of the Commonwealth Science Council, which recently carried out a programme to develop standards and specifications for local building materials in selected African countries.

Thus UNCHS and ATI organized a regional workshop to build upon this work and emphasize the dissemination of the Costa Rica experience. Held in collaboration with ITRC and FUNDATEC, the workshop met in San José and Puntarenas, Costa Rica, from 1 to 4 July 1991. Participants from Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama took the opportunity to identify the positive features of improved lime technology for replication in their own situation. They learnt of innovations in small-scale lime production, and went on to present and discuss country reports. Following a visit to quarries and a demonstration plant, they split into working groups on lime-processing technology and on lime standards and specifications. Following discussions of their findings, they adopted conclusions and proposals for action.

As a result of the workshop, it is intended to produce technical documents on improved small-scale lime production, draft standards and technical specifications on hydrated lime, and workshop proceedings in English and Spanish.

Furthermore, lime will be promoted as a reliable building material and as an input to other industrial uses and to agriculture in participating countries through the implementation of regional and national projects. The Workshop also aimed to foster technical cooperation among Central American countries in lime-production technologies, standards and specifications.

Second Consultation on the Building Materials Industry

The Second Consultation on the Building Materials Industry is to be held at Athens, Greece, from 4 to 8 November 1991, organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in co-sponsorship with UNCHS (Habitat).

Based on preparatory work and the conclusions and recommendations of a regional expert group meeting (EGM) for Central America and an interregional EGM held in Nairobi, Kenya, for Africa and Asia, the following issues will proposed for discussion at the Consultation:

- Strategies and policies for the development of the building-materials industry in developing countries; and

- Measures to strengthen the low-cost building-materials industry in developing countries.

The first issue focuses on the promotion of the building-materials industry as a whole in the developing countries. It provides an overview of the main characteristics of the industry and addresses the production of basic materials such as cement, clay products, iron and steel, and thermoplastics. The second emphasizes the complementary role of the low-cost building-materials industry in the developing countries in ensuring the supply of building materials such as alternative binders, blocks and bricks, commercially-less-accepted species of timber, agricultural and industrial wastes. This second issue also examines the main constraints to the development of the low-cost building materials sector.

At this Consultation, it is envisaged that negotiations will take place among participants to develop cooperation between governments and/or individual promoters in the building materials industry. Negotiations may result in specific technical cooperation and/or investment projects related to the sector.

From crisis activities to preventive maintenance: National meetings on building-maintenance strategy in Nairobi and Bombay

At the request of the Commission on Human Settlements, UNCHS (Habitat) has incorporated in its work programme for the biennium 1990-1991 the organization of a series of national workshops on building maintenance. After the first was held in Singapore in September 1990, a second meeting took place in Nairobi on 13 and 14 March 1991 with a view to identifying the specific and generic problems and constraints faced by the maintenance sector, and possible strategies that can overcome these constraints. (See also articles in the previous two issued of this journal.)

The participants at the workshop - organized by UNCHS (Habitat) with the active cooperation of the Kenyan Ministry of Lands and Housing, and the Ministry of Public Works - stated that over the past three decades massive investments have been made by developing countries in new buildings as part of their social and economic infrastructures.

In this context, timely maintenance and rehabilitation work assumes special significance as inadequate attention to this area could accelerate depreciation of building stock, ultimately leading to considerable loss of national assets. The workshop, therefore, emphasized the responsibility of the public sector to ensure effective control over maintenance costs and to look for innovative means of cost-recovery. The private sector also requires motivation for improving maintenance standards through appropriate policies and fiscal incentives.

Maintenance as important as construction

The growing willingness on the part of policy makers to try new ideas and bolder strategies in addressing maintenance issues was also expressed during another High-level Round Table, held in Bombay on 5 and 6 April 1991. This meeting organized by UNCHS (Habitat) in association with the Public Works Department and Housing Department of the Government of Maharashtra, and the Institution of Engineers (India), Maharashtra State Centre, discussed several possible areas of action: refining the enabling policies and legislation, introducing innovative financing mechanisms, streamlining institutional arrangements, strengthening management practices and further promoting community participation so as to improve building-maintenance performance in public and private housing.

The background papers prepared for the meetings in Kenya and India focused on the crucial issues (policy, finance, management and technical) that affect building maintenance in the national context of these countries. At the policy level, the foremost need seems to be, to accord due recognition to maintenance as an important development strategy in its own right. Maintenance must cease to be regarded as a mere adjunct of construction. It must be treated as it really is - **an essential prerequisite to national social and economic growth**. One way of shifting this emphasis would be to treat maintenance expenditure as a "planned expenditure."

The private sector, particularly the business community, the participants meeting in Nairobi and Bombay believed, can play an active role in sharing maintenance expenditure on public buildings, as part of their social responsibility. In the United States of America, for example, it is common to solicit funds from the private sector for urban maintenance. In many developing countries, commercial organizations already maintain parks and landscapes on a routine basis; the related expenses are defrayed against budgeted funds for media publicity. The construction of a new school or a new hospital in a residential district could even be made conditional on the local community agreeing to maintain it.

The workshop participants considered it equally important to increase the efficiency of use of the available resources for maintenance. This will require concerted effort in several areas, including maintenance plan-

A scene from the Bombay Round Table.

ning, programming, budgeting and management. Often local solutions will be best-suited to local problems. Nevertheless, the introduction of sound principles of management will be necessary to replace out-dated and wasteful practices. In the budgeting process, for example, a multi-year time frame might be more suited to periodic and preventive maintenance rather than the annual allocations now made.

After substantive deliberations the meetings in Nairobi and Bombay produced a set of conclusions and recommendations for improving building maintenance standards and cost-recovery practices. The final reports will be published by UNCHS (Habitat) for dissemination.

To follow up further national workshops, UNCHS (Habitat) will organize an international workshop later this year. This will provide a forum for the exchange of national experiences and enable the replication of successful strategies on building maintenance in other countries.

SACDEL seminar on the role of institutions in promoting municipal development

A seminar/workshop on the role of institutions in promoting municipal development was held at Ica, Peru, from 22 to 25 April 1991. Organized as part of the SACDEL (Regional System of Training for Urban Local Development and for Strengthening of Municipal Management in Latin America), the regional programme was jointly sponsored by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank, UNCHS (Habitat) and the International Union of Local Authorities and by the national institutes of municipal development of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Peru.

Some 37 participants -- trainers, central and local government officials, heads of selected NGOs and some representatives of the private sector -- from those countries and from Bolivia were joined by representatives of the donor agencies. The seminar itself was opened in a simple ceremony consisting of three inaugural addresses given by the Director of the SACDEL programme, by the UNCHS representative on behalf of the donor agencies, and by the Director of PATCE-GOL, the Programme of Technical Assistance, Training and Research for Local Government of Peru, on behalf of the hosts. The second day covered the role of NGOs and of international and bilateral assistance agencies. A separate session was held on UNCHS: its mandate, strategies, expertise, programme, activities and publications.

Evaluation of the Seminar brought out the fact that participants especially appreciated the extra time set aside for small-group work. The contribution of selected city mayors, Parliamentarians and private entrepreneurs was also considered important. Participants requested that in future a separate time be reserved for bilateral discussions between participants.

The papers and proceedings are to be published by SACDEL. All participating countries are planning to hold national replicas of the seminar/workshop soon.

Municipal Development Programme module launched

The Eastern Africa module of the Municipal Development Programme (MDP) for sub-Saharan Africa was launched in Harare, Zimbabwe, on 9 and 10 May 1991. The Launching Conference was attended by over 100 participants representing English-speaking Eastern and Southern African countries, Burundi and Mozambique and by representatives of donor/aid agencies and institutions. Those from the region included municipal and central government officials, trainers, and experts in municipal development.

The Conference consisted of three half-day plenary sessions and one afternoon of four workshops on the principal MDP components: policy studies and seminars, training, operational support to municipalities and associations of municipalities. The training workshop, which was attended by Mr. T. Sudra on behalf of UNCHS, covered such issues as

- The relative autonomy of national training institutions and recent moves by several of them towards parastatal status;
- Senior policy seminars and their advocacy role with regard to the position of local governments, of local-government training institutes and of their capacity to attract and retain competent personnel;
- The main target groups for training;
- National co-ordinating secretariats and national MDP networks; and
- The role of regional vs. national activities.

In the workshops participants selected members of the steering committee. The **steering committee** now includes six institutional members representing UNCHS (Habitat), UNDP, the World Bank, and the governments of Canada, Italy and the Netherlands -- plus six experts nominated by African participants at the workshop.

It met on 11 May, with representation from two UNCHS participants. Under discussion of the **work programme,** seven proposals were approved in principle. These covered:

- A senior policy seminar on the municipal finance sector in Kenya (7-9 August 1991);
- A workshop on regional strategy for local-government training in English-speaking sub-Saharan Africa (October 1991);
- Policy studies on local/central government relationships with the first preparatory workshop for researchers and policy-makers to be held in September 1991;
- A senior policy seminar on the municipal finance sector in Mozambique (November 1991);
- Institutional support to the Centro de Formacao, Mozambique (beginning in November 1991);
- Institutional support for the IULA Africa Chapter Office at Harare (beginning December 1991); and
- Initial support for an MDP newsletter.

A **Technical Support Network** meeting followed on 13 and 14 May. Here it was agreed that UNCHS, together with EDI and the Institute for Housing Studies of the Netherlands, will be largely responsible for the support of training activities.

UNCHS/KUL International Workshop on Housing in Development

Thirty-four participants from 10 countries in English-speaking Africa took part in an International Workshop on Housing in Development held at Nairobi, Kenya, from 24 May to 8 June 1991. The Workshop is part

of a continuing joint UNCHS (Habitat)/Post Graduate Centre (PGC), Human Settlements, Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven programme, which has been supported since its inception in 1979 by the Belgian Development Cooperation Administration -- undergoing continuous development itself to meet the changing needs of and requests from member countries.

The Nairobi Workshop, held in collaboration with the Housing and Research Development Unit of the University of Nairobi, was opened by Mr. H. Verschure, the PGC Director, and by Mr. T. Sudra of UNCHS (Habitat)'s Training Unit, and closed by Mr. S. Kuyama, Deputy Administrator, United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation -- who presented certificates to the participants. The Workshop included, among other things, presentation and discussion sessions on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and on women in shelter and human settlements development and management in general. Participants worked in four different housing areas, two in Nairobi, one in Thika and one in Nyeri as a practical exercise, and developed proposals for further elaboration during the Course to be held at Leuven in November 1991, which some 20 of them will be selected to join. There were also a number of methodological presentations and seminars preparing them for work in their countries on return.

Each participant selected to participate in the follow-up course in Belgium will prepare a case study of selected housing environments, offering documentation on the dwelling, neighbourhood, city and national legal and regulatory framework.

In addition, participants selected for the course will collect information on specific problems and opportunities encountered on-the-job to be used during the November Course with feedback from colleagues and assistance from the staff.

UNCHS participation in Seminar on Building By-laws and Planning Regulations

In November last year a Seminar on Building By-laws and Planning Regulations was hosted by the Ministry of Lands and Housing of the Government of Kenya in collaboration with the Housing Research and Development Unit of the University of Nairobi. That Seminar, sponsored by the Intermediate Technology Development Group, highlighted constraints to the implementation of the 1985 By-laws Review and formulated strategies to resolve them. The Seminar was attended by over 90 senior administrators, scholars, researchers, practitioners and observers from both the public and private sectors.

The UNCHS (Habitat) representative, Mr. B. Der-Petrossian, in his address noted that no global and uniform set of building codes and regulations can fit every case and that each country must develop its own performance codes and regulations, based on its own resource endowments and its own socio-economic policies. In this regard, the Centre has played a catalytic role in assisting governments to formulate standards and regulations -- particularly for shelter production and service for low-income groups and local needs. He highlighted recent UNCHS activities in the promotion of standards and specifications for local building materials in the Africa region, and made copies of relevant publications (*The Reformulation of Building Acts, Regulations and Codes in African Countries*, HS/81/85; and *Co-operation in the African Region on Technologies and Standards for Local Building Materials*, HS/181/89 available to participants.

The team presenting the report of the proceedings expressed the belief that the report would go a long way towards realizing the goal of shelter for all, by promoting the adoption and implementation of realistic building by-laws and planning regulations that should result from the **Seminar's Resolution**.

That Resolution called for:

- establishment of a task force to initiate immediate adoption of Building Code guidelines not requiring legislative changes;
- creation of a Permanent Commission on Building By-laws to initiate and coordinate legislative changes, review the entire Building Code and to monitor performance of the Code;
- efforts by the Ministry of Lands and Housing to see that relevant ministries and agencies enforce the By-Laws Review.

The Seminar was mentioned in the Kenyan delegation's presentation to the thirteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements, as reported in the July 1991 issue of the UNCHS (Habitat) SHELTER BULLETIN.

Participants at a previous UNCHS /KUL workshop held in Algeria.

Women in Human Settlements Development

The General Assembly of the United Nations declared 1976 to 1985 "United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace".

Since the Women's Decade there has been an increased visibility of women's issues throughout the world. It has become apparent that women are often the main agents of change within their communities. Their knowledge and talent is indispensable to the progress and development of humanity. UNCHS (Habitat) has also been actively involved in the promotion of women, as beneficiaries but most of all as agents of change in the area of human settlements. We at UNCHS HABITAT NEWS want to keep our readers abreast of these activities. We will look at some of the projects specifically for and/or by women and will interview various women working for UNCHS (Habitat) about their role within UNCHS as well as women's roles in general in human settlements.

We begin with Catalina Trujillo, the Women in Human Settlements focal point. When asked why there was a need for coordination of women's programmes, she noted that "the only reason we have a women-specific programme now is because women are *not* in the human settlements development process: planning, decision-making and/or control. They are, as always, doing things but have very little say in management. The day women are involved directly in all projects of UNCHS (be they Technical Co-operation, Urban Management Programme, Global Strategy for Shelter) we won't need a special programme anymore."

Ms. Trujillo would like to see other qualified women joining the Women in Human Settlements Programme, once the budget allows. Similarly, she wants to have all her colleagues involved, and pursuing women's participation in human settlements and gender-awareness.

The same goes for the role of women in general (within governments, NGOs, grassroots organizations concerned with human settlements), for "without women's active involvement there will be no real and sustainable human settlements development". Women must, however, be active at all levels and in all activities -- planning, developing, directing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating.

Steps must be taken both at the institutional level and the personal. She notes with interest plans to establish a creche at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, a needed social service for women workers, and adds that training and capacity-building skills are also required. Yet, regardless of such steps in the right direction, women will be ignored, humoured, or flirted with until attitudes change and they and their contributions are taken seriously. Ms. Trujillo suggested that the resolution on promoting the advancement of women in human settlements, adopted at the recent session of the Commission on Human Settlements, be widely circulated and acted upon. (See box.)

Resolution 13/13 Promoting the Advancement of Women in Human Settlements Development and Management

The Commission on Human Settlements

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/15 of 24 May 1990 on "Monitoring and review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women",[1]

Concerned at the delay in implementing the Strategies for the Advancement of Women,

Aware of the need to adopt urgent measures to facilitate the implementation of effective programmes for the achievement of the objectives of the Strategies aiming at a full and equal participation of women in the development process,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, which enhances women's participation in shelter and infrastructure management, as contributors and beneficiaries, while integrating women's activities within all mainstream development activities,

Recognizing the role of women in shelter issues as a key component in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/181,

1. *Urges* Governments to identify the methods within shelter strategy development and implementation, that reveal and strengthen the role of women in settlement and development;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to strengthen the role and competence of the Centre in gender-sensitive shelter strategy development, and to increase its efforts to provide support to Governments in this field;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director to review and develop a more comprehensive policy on Women in Development which ensures gender-sensitive methods in the total work programme and budget of all the divisions within the Centre, in a manner that relates gender-sensitivity training to specific technical aspects of the work of professional staff members of the Centre;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Director to manage the financial resources of the Centre so that there is adequate financial and administrative support to the Women in Development focal point of the Centre, within the resources already available;

5. *Invites* Governments and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to develop a closer co-operation with the Habitat International Coalition Women and Shelter Network and similar organizations at national, regional and international levels;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourteenth session on the implementation of the recommendations contained in this resolution.

[1] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I sect. A.*

INFORMATION INITIATIVES

Visual Settlement Planning Approach (ViSP)

UNCHS (Habitat), in cooperation with the Technical Research Centre of Finland (VTT), has developed a new approach for land-use planners called "Visual Settlement Planning" (ViSP). Over the past five years, VTT has developed this computerized approach to land-use planning, incorporating both statistical and graphic data into a portable format using a microcomputer workstation which includes as its basic components a special screen, optical memory drive, multicolour scanner and multicolour thermal plotter.

UNCHS has helped in building the user interface for the developing countries, making it possible for planners to operate the system with a minimum of training. The ViSP approach, using off-the-shelf hardware and software, can use satellite images, aerial photographs, normal photographs and video images as input , thus revolutionizing physical planning. For example, contour lines can be put in over an aerial photo or satellite image, explanatory text can be shown on the images (e.g., the various aspects of urban development being considered or costs thereof) and components can be highlighted (e.g., by numbering buildings). Close-ups can also be imaged, or maps brought in from AutoCAD to overlay the video image. Using a "paintbrush" utility, the picture can be retouched, for example by removing buildings which would be demolished to put in a road.

The removable 1.3 GB optical disk, used as the mass storage device of the system, can store any of the following:

- 260,000 A4 sheets of word processing text
- 26,000 A4 scanned documents
- 1300 full-colour aerial photos OR aerial/still video shots
- 36 spot images.

In turn, the material generated can be viewed on the computer screen, through a video projector, or printed out to show other planners, decision-making bodies, and the community. The possibility for increased community participation and the monitoring role of NGOs is obvious.

The cost, including software, ranges from $US 50,000 to $US 75,000 depending on the input and output devices used. Additional funding for installation and training of personnel is required.

The ViSP approach can be used in projects dealing with

- Urban management,
- Physical planning,
- Land-use inventories and planning,
- Squatter-settlement upgrading,
- Geographical information system (GIS), and
- Disasters, natural or man-made.

Another advantage is the relatively short time required for data collection and processing -- allowing for up-to-date information on growth and development. The entire project using ViSP would become a matter of months as outlined in the schedule below, which of course would be modified according to the needs of the individual project.

ViSP has already been used in two pilot areas in developed countries. In these case a colour video, paper maps, aerial photos and oid plans were scanned in, and statistical information taken from existing computer databases. Planners now use the system daily -- for it has drastically improved their ability to visualize different alternatives.

The UNCHS version of ViSP was introduced for the first time at the 13th session of the Commission on Human Settlements held in Harare during 29 April to 8 May 1991. Delegations and members of both the private sector and NGOs saw a demonstration of ViSP. Out of some 40 delegations 23 are pursuing a follow-up advisory mission. Plans for testing the system in three further pilot areas are underway.

Encouraged by the positive reception in the Harare meeting, UNCHS is looking for

Installation of the system components	1-2 days
Training of planners to use the system	2 weeks
Aerial-video-image flights	1-2 days
Incorporation of video images into system	1 week
Scanning of maps and drawings	2 weeks
Statistical data collection	2 weeks -2 months
Use of system	throughout the 2-4- month project period)

potential pilot countries to test this approach and thus improve its use for the human settlements development work. Those who wish further details are requested to write to the Chief, IAVD Division. UNCHS(Habitat), Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya.

National Endowment for the Arts, U.S.A., offers shelter-related grants

The National Endowment for the Arts of the United States of America offers grants in areas such as architecture, landscape architecture, urban design and planning, and historic preservation. The application guidelines for fiscal year 1992, for example, mention project grants for rural and small communities and for heritage conservation.

The former supports rural and small towns in their efforts to solve design problems, e.g., by studying the feasibility of a proposed zoning plan or preparing a landscape plan for a public playground or park. Organizations applying for such grants may be local or state government, community or neighbourhood organizations, colleges or universities, and independent non-profit groups or institutions in communities located outside of major metropolitan areas and with a population under 50,000. The grants themselves range from $US5000 to $10,000.

Grants for heritage conservation are **not** available for construction or renovation, but for, e.g.,conducting a feasibility study to reuse an old building for a new purpose or to train craftspeople in preservation techniques. Again, government, community, local and academic groups as well as non-profit organizations may apply, but in this case the grants range from $US5000 to $US25,000.

National Endowment for the Arts

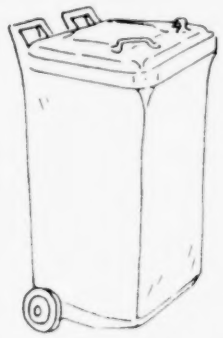
(Information from: Design Arts Program, Room 625, National Endowment for the Arts, Nancy Hanks Center, 1100 Penn. Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506, U.S.A.)

UNCHS through others' eyes

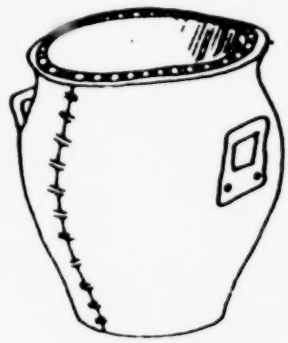
UNCHS (Habitat) publications are often used as background material or discussed directly in other books and journals. This issue of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS, for example, reviews two such examples.

One is Roland Ziss' *Shelter and Self-help: Development and Cooperation for the Improvement of Housing Conditions in Developing Countries.* It mentions the trilingual Habitat Directory (HS/92-1-131025-3), distributed by UNCHS (Habitat) in Nairobi.

Another is issue number 4 of 1990 of the newsletter of the International Solid Waste Association of Denmark, which describes *Refuse Collection Vehicles for Developing Countries* (HS/137/88) as "a recent delightful booklet...which should be available on the desks of all foreign donor administration chiefs". It too is available from UNCHS headquarters.



Plastic and galvanized-iron bins with lids are commonly used in middle-income and high-income areas, but they are relatively valuable and, hence, susceptible to theft. They are, it says, suitable for brewing beer, washing clothes, bathing children, etc.



Containers made from used car and truck tires, with capacities from 30 to 80 litres, fitted with a lid, offer a useful, fly-proof, washable, robust and low-cost alternative. They are resistent to corrosion in warm, moist climates and can be made and repaired by local labour.

NEW FROM HABITAT

■ Guidelines for the Improvement of Land-registration and Land Information Systems in Developing Countries (with special reference to English-speaking countries in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa)

v plus 58 pp., figures, references HS/215/90 E; ISBN 92-1-131135-7

As the introduction explains, the prevailing land-tenure system in most developing countries is still largely a mixture of statute law and customary law, resulting in a situation where ownership, land tenure and usage rights and interests are largely ill-defined, undocumented and untransactable. It is estimated that up to 90 per cent of land parcels in many developing countries have no documentary evidence of title nor, for that matter, any confirmed tenure. Consequently, managing the flow of land from those who own it to those who need it for development has become very difficult, both for governments and for private developers.

Thus improvements of land-registration systems and the establishment of land-information systems are basic reforms which are a prerequisite for efficient human settlements development. The Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, for example, has recommended the establishment of efficient land-registration and information systems and the introduction of administrative measures and legal reforms to promote the efficiency of land markets.

This manual, which embodies the study prepared by a UNCHS (Habitat) consultant and reflects a subsequent review of the report by the UNCHS-sponsored sub-regional Workshop on Land-registration and Land-information Systems (October 1990), reviews the administrative and technical deficiencies of current practice in developing countries and suggests administrative, institutional, technical and managerial measures for improving the effectiveness of such systems in supporting human settlements development.

Chapter II reviews the general historical background and development of land-registration practices, the benefits and deficiencies of land registration, and the technical and institutional problems that need to be addressed. Chapter III examines existing practices, processes and methods -- including technologies in cadastre and land registration. Chapter IV discusses the way ahead, and the final chapter outlines the immediate and longer-term strategies and guidelines for improving land registration.

Survey regulations and land-registration requirements should be made part of a shorter and more flexible process. Government guarantees and the use of a "half-way" cadastre, the greater use of private-sector surveyors and of technical assistants, plus stepped-up training and capacity-building at all levels are among the recommendations. Others call for land departments to keep a reasonable proportion of revenue generated, the use of relevant and functional land-information technologies to meet initially limited ends, a cost-recovery approach, decentralization of land-registration offices, and public information and awareness programmes.

All these must be kept in perspective -- for "Land registration, cadastral surveys and land-information systems are all means to an end, that is the better management of land as a resource and the reduction of risk in decision-making processes. They provide a basic framework that is essential for the improvement of land delivery, the stimulation of land markets, the protection of the environment, and, ultimately, the creation of wealth for the community."

■ Human Settlements and Sustainable Development: The role of human settlements and of human settlement policies in meeting development goals and in addressing the issues of sustainability at global and local levels, viii plus 60 pp., notes and references HS/214/90 E; ISBN 92-1-131134-9

As Dr. Ramachandran, UNCHS (Habitat)'s Executive Director, points out in his foreword, the problem of reconciling the imperatives of economic growth with the

safeguarding of the world's eco-system is one of the great issues of our time -- and has led to the concept of sustainable development.

The role of human settlements is central to the transition to such development, particularly urban settlements in developing countries. If such settlements are to survive and develop, sustainable development is the key -- including, for example, efficient use of land and water, recycling, safe management and disposal of waste, and the control of pollution from transport and industry.

Yet there are formidable obstacles:

- Lack of financial resources,
- Absence of managerial capabilities,
- Constraints in the provision and use of "environment-friendly" technology,
- A fear that the sustainable development approach will be too costly and slow down attempts to overcome poverty.

This book tackles these issues and others in a straightforward and fairly detailed manner. For example, where local governments cannot invest the needed amount, their capacity to work in partnership with community organizations, NGOs, non-profit foundations and private-sector enterprises is central. The role of national government is to provide the institutional structure, provide and maintain basic infrastructure and services in response to local needs, offer the regulatory and incentive framework to encourage more sustainable levels of resource use (e.g.,by penalizing polluters), and, perhaps most important, offer the "enabling" environment to support and encourage individual and community efforts (in developing countries, to enter into joint ventures). Nor is it a question of haves vs.

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: THE ROLE OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND OF HUMAN SETTLEMENT POLICIES IN MEETING DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND IN ADDRESSING THE ISSUES OF SUSTAINABILITY AT GLOBAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

"UNCED's primary emphasis must be on development, for it was through the development process that environment must be addressed."

Source: "Putting the 'D' back into UNCED", Go-Between No. 31, May 1991. Maurice Strong in his opening address to the second UNCED Prep Com, held at Geneva from 18 March to 5 April.

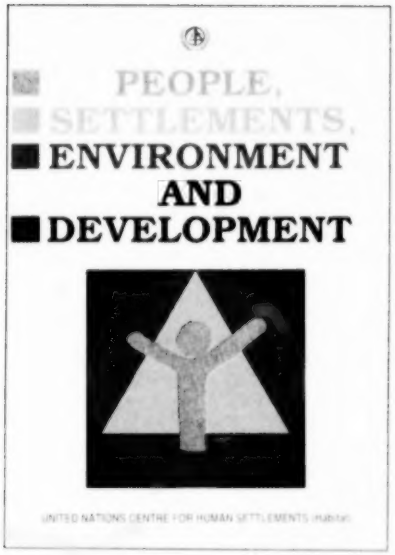
■ People, Settlements, Environment and Development: Improving the living environment for a sustainable future, vi plus 57 pp.

Distributed at the thirteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements, this publication stems from the Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Settlements and Sustainable Development held at the Hague in November 1990. It begins with the Statement of the Chairman, followed by an outline of the concept of sustainable development which ends with the statement that "Human settlements are, at one and the same time, the means for bringing about desired social, economic and physical development and the indicator by which the quality of the desired development is measured."

A series of chapters, each with recommendations, deal with the management of various sectors in terms of sustainable development, land resources, water supply, sanitation and wastewater, solid wastes, energy systems, transport policies, and the construction sector. These recommendations, which apply variously to, e.g., to all countries, developing countries, developed countries, and the international community are followed in each case with a fold-out sheet which charts the actions required at each level (neighbourhood, community, settlement, city or subnational level, national and international) in terms of various factors. For example, under sanitation and wastewater management, we find that the shortage of trained staff can be met by sup-

have-nots. "For over 10 years, studies have shown that significant reductions in fossil fuel use are possible in richer countries without threatening people's standards of living, as Leach and others note in their *A Low Energy Strategy for the United Kingdom.*

The volume ends with a warning not to sacrifice development to an over-concentration on sustainability. "The hundreds of millions of rural people who are already overtaxing the capacity of their inadequate land-holdings (since survival this year is more important than sustainability) and the hundreds of millions of poor urban dwellers who live in some of the world's most life-threatening and health-threatening environments need action on their environmental problems. It would not be sustainable development in the sense used by the World Commission on Environment and Development if Western concerns for sustainability came to dominate the Conference agenda and the international agenda for the 1990s." For, as Dr. Ramachandran puts it, "The real question to be faced is how the environment can support human settlements productively and sustainably, to the greatest long-term benefit of the people who live in them, not just for now but for always. This is the intersecting point between human settlements, the environment and sustainable development."



port for household initiatives in operating and maintaining systems at the lowest level, and improvement of national training programmes at the national level. These fold-outs are often quite detailed, that on solid-waste management consists of four pages.

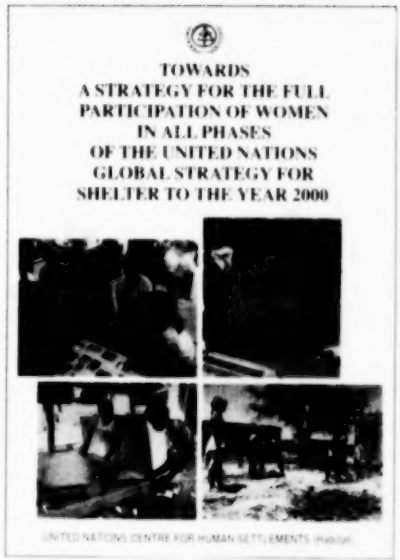
■ Preservation and Rehabilitation of Historic Districts, Towns and Monuments, iv plus 93 pp., HS/207/90E; ISBN 92-1-131136-8

This publication comprises the proceedings and final report of the UNCHS (Habitat)/International Academy of Architecture (IAA) International Seminar on the Preservation and Rehabilitation of Historic Districts, Towns and Monuments in Some Developed Countries and their Relevance to Developing Countries, held from 1 to 15 November 1989 at Assenovgrad, Bulgaria. Discussion and the exchange of experience were used to devise suitable approaches to the inventory, protection, conservation, rehabilitation and maintenance of the historical and architectural heritage within the framework of national shelter strategies.

To this end, internationally recognized experts from Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Mexico, Portugal and the USSR presented lectures covering experiences ranging from the conservation and rehabilitation of historic towns in Mexico to IAA activities in the field of training, design and technical assistance for developing countries.

Also included in the publication are national reports (on Afghanistan, China, Cyprus, Ethiopia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Kenya, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Yemen). Conclusions and recommendations are followed by annexes comprising considerata (including definitions of terms such as "preservation" and "restoration"), and a list of participants.

■ Towards a Strategy for the Full Participation of Women in all Phases of the United Nations Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, ii plus 60 pp., lists of participants, references, HS/198/90E; ISBN 92-1-131113-6



Women, as income-earners, homemakers and heads of households, have a crucial role as contributors to the solution of human-settlements problems -- one which should be fully recognized and reflected in their equal participation in the elaboration of housing policies, programmes and projects.

This report outlines the possibilities, drawing on five regional seminars and the Interregional Seminar held towards involving women fully in the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. The Introduction outlines the general process followed by UNCHS (Habitat) in defining and creating awareness of women's shelter issues. Part One presents highlights findings and required actions identified during 1988-1989 at five regional seminars organized by UNCHS and funded by the Governments of the Netherlands and Norway. These are grouped under women and housing policy, land, construction, and housing finance -- plus community participation and communications, and the implementation of programmes on women and human settlements. Part Two presents the strategy or plan of action developed and recommended by the Interregional Seminar to Promote the Full Participation of Women in all Phases of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, held at Nairobi from 4 to 8 December 1989. (Readers are referred to write-ups in the April and August 1990 issues of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS for details.)

Annexes include a suggested revision of the plan of action for the GSS, a note on the IYSH Regional Seminar on Women and Shelter held at Harare, Zimbabwe, in December 1987, and a Statement by the Habitat International Coalition Women and Shelter Group, adopted by the Interregional Seminar.

EVENTS

■ Infrastructure, environment, water and people

The 17th Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC) Conference, to be held at Nairobi, Kenya, from 19 to 23 August 1991, deals with issues that are of great importance for Africa today. The Conference is particularly suitable for those actively involved in planning, providing, operating and maintaining services - those working for voluntary organizations, local and central government departments and international agencies. Ample time has been set aside for discussion to allow the participants to talk about what they are doing and to share ideas, experiences and opinions.

(Further information: Dr. Paul Syagga, HRDU, University of Nairobi, P.O. Box 30197, Nairobi, Kenya)

■ "Housing and finance in the year 2000"

September 8 to 11 1991, in Hamburg, Germany, the XIXth World Congress of the International Union of Housing Finance Institutions (IUHFI) and the Xth European Congress of the European Federation of Building Societies (EFBS) will be held on the theme "Housing and finance in the year 2000". Given the many changes which Germany has seen over the past months in the political and economic arena, Germany is an ideal venue for a world and European congress for building societies in 1991. The Congress will be held in German, English, French and Spanish.

Topics to be discussed include: "Monetary policy and housing finance in West and East", "Attracting the saver - sources of housing finance", "Do special credit institutions have a future?", "The Basel Agreement and the equity capitalization of housing finance institutions", "Self-help as the decisive factor in initiating housing construction and housing finance schemes, as exemplified by African and Central America", "The dialogue between the supervisory office and the finance institutions", and "Housing construction and finance in the expanding European Community".

(Further information: CPO HANSER SERVICE, Postfach 1221, D-2000 Hamburg-Barsbüttel, Germany. Tel 49-40-6706051. Fax 49-40- 6703283. Telex 2165737 cpo d)

■ INTA 15

The 15th annual International New Town Association/Asociation Internationale des Villes Nouvelles (INTA/AIVN) Conference will be held in Belfast, U.K., 22 to 24 September 1991, and Dublin, Ireland, 25 to 27 September 1991. Intended to provoke discussion of how successful developments are achieved by reconciling forces or pressures which often conflict, four aspects of urban development (imagination, investment, infrastructure, implementation) will be highlighted and related to three fundamental elements of city life (economy, environment and people).

During the week there will be seven plenary sessions at which speakers from different parts of the world will share visions, opinions and experiences of urban development. Each will be followed by discussion forums. Two days of study tours in the Belfast Urban Area will be offered as well as one day exploring the inner and outer city of Dublin and Dublin Bay.

A unique aspect of the Conference will be the 'poster sessions'. Space has been allocated for poster displays (text and illustrations), beside which will be seating to allow those who wish the opportunity to discuss the subject material with the presenter.

(Further information: INTA/AIVN International Secretariat/Secrétariat Général, Nassau Kilienburgstraat 44, 2596 AE The Hague, The Netherlands)

■ Affordable Housing for All in Developing Countries

The Construction Industry Development Agency (CIDA) of Nigeria, announces an international conference and exhibition on "Affordable Housing for All in Developing Countries" in collaboration with the International Conference of Building Officials (USA) and the Southern Building Code Congress International (USA) at Enugu, Anambra State, Nigeria, from 23 to 27 September 1991.

The Conference plans to bring together people of international calibre from various sectors of the national economy who are involved in housing developments, as well as the consumers themselves, to tackle the problem of reducing the cost of owning homes. Statistics show that today the problem of home ownership is colossal and overcrowding desperate. In the urban capitals of some developing countries, at least 75 per cent of the population live in single rooms with up to seven persons sharing one room. The Conference aims to come up with some effective, pragmatic and socially acceptable strategies for making home ownership a reality for many.

(Further information: Chairman, Conference Planning Committee, CIDA, Olive Chambers, 102 Akpakpava Road, P.O. Box 4736, Benin City, Bendel State, Nigeria)

■ Habitat in the 21st Century

September 23 to 27 1991 will see the XIXth International Association for Housing Science (IAHS) World Congress taking place at Ales, France. Some of the topics that will expound on the theme, "Habitat in the 21st Century" are: "Shelter for the 21st century", "Europe, 1993: How to plan ahead", "Robotics and automation in construction projects", "Software for construction management", "Growth management of urban centres", "Land development and land

policies".
(Further information: International Association for Housing Science (IAHS), P.O. Box 340254, Coral Gables, Miami, Florida 33134, USA)

■ "Sustainable Urban Development" theme of Montreal Conference

Sustainable urban development is the theme of the Third Summit Conference of the World's Major Cities, to be held at Montreal, Canada, from 15 to 17 October 1991. This theme is defined by the organizers as "the advent of development based on the conservation of resources", or, according to the Brundtland Commission, as "development that responds to the needs of the present without compromising the capacity of future generations to respond to their own needs". Discussion and debates by delegates will help to apply these concepts in urban settings. Already 16 cities (Abidjan, Beijing, Berlin, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Cairo, Istanbul, Lima, Mexico, Moscow, Nairobi, New York, Paris, Seoul, Sydney and Tokyo) have confirmed that they will be attending.
(Further information from: Third Summit Conference of the World's Major Cities (Montréal 1991), 333, Saint-Antoine St. East, bureau 228, Montreal (Quebec), Canada H2X 1R9. Tel (514) 872-0001. Fax (514) 872-6067.

■ CIB '92

The World Building Congress will be held at Montreal, Canada, from 18 to 22 May 1992. The Congress will provide a forum where researchers and practitioners from around the world can discuss the complex and urgent issues facing the building industry. The themes -- "New materials and systems", "Rehabilitation and restoration", "Environment", "Globalization", "Computers and robotics" -- reflect the concerns of the building industry as it seeks to develop and apply new technologies to prolong the life of existing buildings and improve the performance of new ones.

The Congress will be of interest to all sectors of the building industry: researchers, educators, architects, engineers, construction company managers, manufacturers, designers, owners, developers, planners and building officials.
(Further information: Congress Secretariat, CIB '92 World Building Congress, National Research Council Canada, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0R6)

■ ECO WORLD '92

The first ECO WORLD conference and exposition on ecology, economics and engineering will be held 14 to 17 June 1992 in Washington D.C., USA. This event is sponsored by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and many U.S. and international business, environmental and technical organizations. ECO WORLD '92 will look at: "Site remediation and clean up", "Local authorities and the environment", "Food and the environment", "Energy and the environment", "Industrial production and the environment", "Transportation and the environment", "Technology, society and the environment".
(Further information: Michele Voso, Director, Exhibits; American Society of Mechanical Engineers; 345 East 47th Street, 13th floor; New York, NY 10017 USA. Tel 212-705 7148. Fax 212-705 7143)

■ 5th International Research Conference on Housing

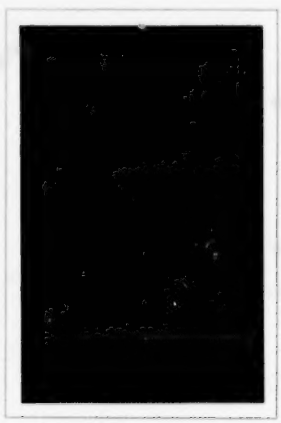
Montreal, Canada, will be the site for the 5th International Research Conference on Housing to be held from 7 to 10 July 1992. The central themes will be: "Housing and changing societies", "Affordability and housing need", Control over housing", "Housing communities", Politics of housing", "Quality of life and housing", and "Supply of housing". In addition, there are four specialized themes: "Gender-based housing research", "Historical housing research", "Rural housing research", "The research/policy interface".
(Further information: Pr. Marc H. Choko, INRS-Urbanisation, 3465 Durocher Street, Montreal, Canada, H2X 2C6. Tel (514)499-4058. Fax 514-499-4065)

■ First International Conference on Urbanization and Development

"Municipalities and the Provision of Urban Services: Issues and Prospects" will be the theme of the First International Conference on Urbanization and Development to be held at Montreal, Canada, 10 to 12 July, 1992. "Task- and resource-sharing between central and local governments", "Municipal self-government: administrative, institutional, financial, legal, and political aspects", "Urban service provision at the local level: public production, contractual arrangements, public/private partnerships, privatization, community participation, and self-production", "Urban service provision as a means to foster decentralization, democratization and economic development" are the topics to be discussed.
(Further information: Urbanization and Development, Montreal Interuniversity Group, 3465 Durocher Street, Montreal, Canada, H2X 2C6. Tel 514-499-4058. Fax 514-499-4065)

■ Architecture, Environment and Peace

The Centre for International Development in Environment and Architecture and the Institute of Built Environment present an International Conference on Architecture, Environment and Peace, 1 to 5 January 1993, at Calcutta, India. The theme - "Adequate and appropriate built environment can bring peace and prosperity to humanity" - has been chosen because architecture and cities are examples of human civilizations but they are often destroyed by war, earthquake, flood, etc. Large numbers of people are poor and technology has failed to provide a minimum habitat.
(Further information: Prof. Santosh Ghosh, Saptaparni Tower D51, 58/3 Ballygunj Circular Road, Calcutta - 700 019, India)



COURSES

University College London

The Bartlett School of Architecture, Building, Environmental Engineering and Planning is a department of University College of London. Within the Bartlett School, the Development Planning Unit is an academic centre specializing in academic teaching, practical training and research in the field of urban and regional development in developing countries. It is directly concerned with the understanding of the process of rapid urbanisation, and the policy and planning response to economic development in order to contribute to the increase of skills in the developing countries.

The Development Planning Unit, University College London, is offering a new nine-month course leading to a postgraduate diploma in urban design for developing countries. The course starts in October 1992, and aims to provide competence in formulating and implementing urban design briefs and negotiating development proposals which meet commercial, social and environmental policy objectives.

Also offered in the 1992/93 period are a PhD programme in urban and regional development, a 24-month postgraduate programme in theory and practice of urban development planning, a 12-month Master's course in urban development planning, urban transport planning in developing countries, and housing in developing countries, plus a nine-month postgraduate course in urban planning practice for developing countries.

Some of the earlier courses and their dates are:

- Environmental institutions, 5 to 20 September 1991
- Small and intermediate urban centres, 23 September - 13 December 1991
- Management and planning for metropolitan development, 23 September 1991 - 13 December 1991
- Action planning for urban development, 23 September 1991 - 13 December 1991
- Postgraduate Diploma in Urban Planning Practice for Developing Countries, 30 September 1991 - July 1992
- MSc in Urban Development Planning, 30 September 1991 - September 1992
- Urban Development, 30 September 1991 - September 1992
- Housing in Developing Countries, 30 September 1991 - September 1992
- Urban Transport Planning in Developing Countries, 30 September 1991 - September 1992.

(Further information: University College of London, The Bartlett School, Development Planning Unit, 9 Endsleigh Gardens, London WC1H 0ED, United Kingdom. Tel 071-388 7581. Fax 071-387 4541. Telex 896559 (Attn. DPU).

UCL DPU

University of Wales, Swansea

One of the six constituent institutions of the federal University of Wales, the University College of Swansea is home to the Centre for Development Studies. Here the focus is on the study of development policy and planning in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East, and the Pacific. The programmes offered include:

- Social Development Planning and Management (MSc (Econ) or Diploma) - to meet the needs of those working in public and non-government agencies who are concerned with the planning, management, and operation of social projects and programmes;
- Development Policy and Planning (MSc (Econ) or Diploma) - for practitioners in development policy analysis and programme planning and administration;
- Regional Development Planning (MSc(Econ)) - the application of a developmental approach to regional policy and planning;
- Epidemiology and Health Planning (MSc) - to develop skills and increase awareness of those involved in planning in the health sector to enable them to improve their performance.

Short study programmes are also available from January to March of every year based on modules such as: Rural Social Development, Economics of Rural Development, Population and Development, Environment and Development and Agricultural Commodity Markets and Trade.

(Further information: The Admissions Secretary, Centre for Development Studies, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP, Wales, United Kingdom. Tel 0792-295332. Fax 0792-295682. Telex 48145 UICS G)

Books

Jonathan Baker (ed.), SMALL TOWN AFRICA: Studies in Rural-urban interaction

(Seminar Proceedings No. 23 of the Scandinavian Institute of African Studies, Uppsala, 1990), 268 pp., tables, maps, notes on contributors, list of participants, bibliographies, ISSN 0281-0018; ISBN 91-7106-305-6

This book offers the proceedings of a conference on "Small Town Africa: Studies in Rural-Urban Interaction", held in Sweden in September 1989. The introduction offers theoretical considerations on urban-rural relations, reviewing the literature with special attention to the optimistic view of urban development in a rural context as espoused by Rondinelli, the pessimistic view of Southall, and the intermediate position held by Hardoy and Satterthwaite.

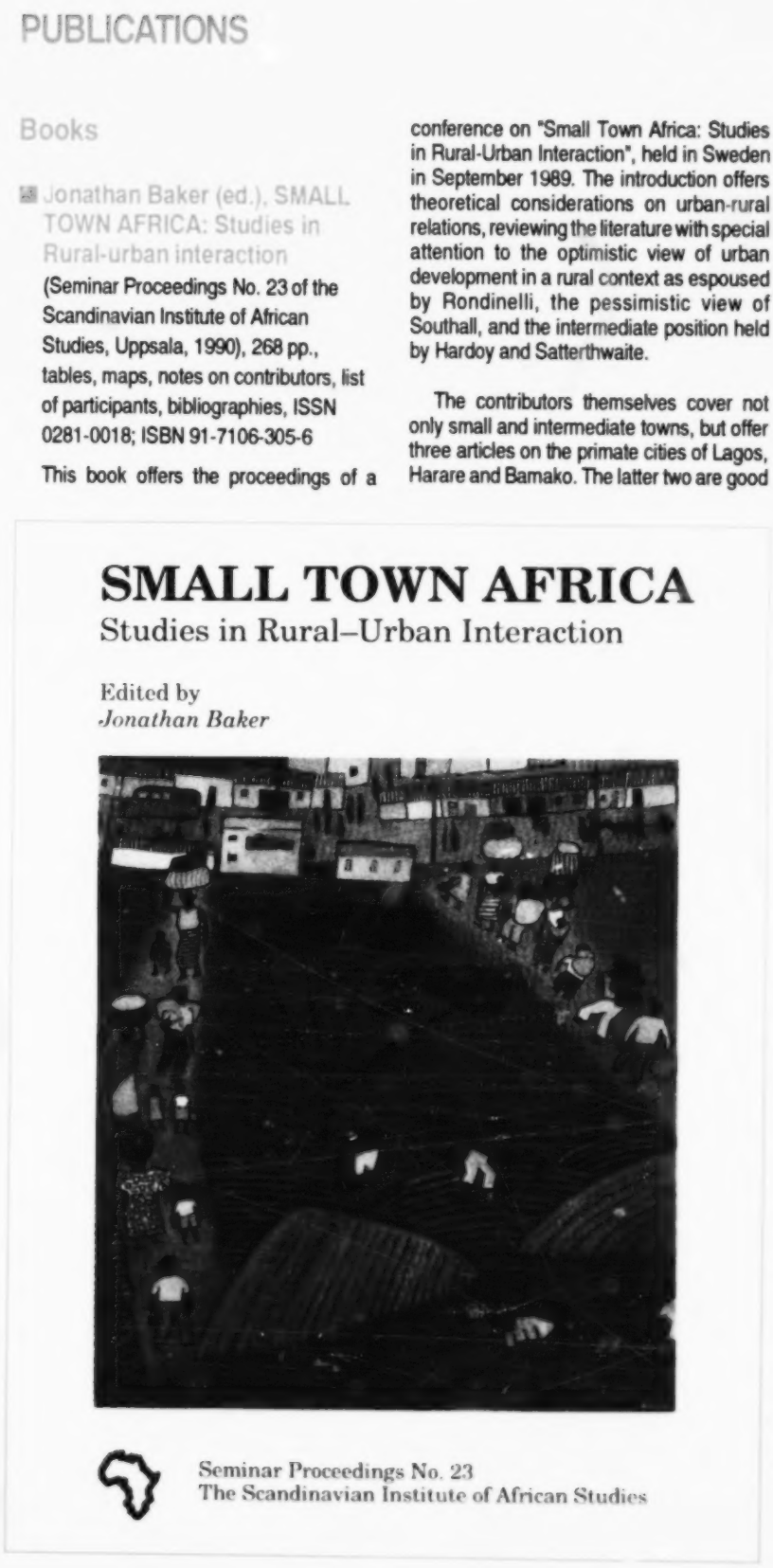
The contributors themselves cover not only small and intermediate towns, but offer three articles on the primate cities of Lagos, Harare and Bamako. The latter two are good gender studies of women, while the first highlights the process of land concentration, and the related problem of landlessness, now also felt in smaller towns and rural areas.

On the topic of planning for small urban centres in the national context, Silitshena notes the importance of agro-towns in offering a range of services to their rural hinterlands (using the Botswana example), while Obudho and Aduwo concentrate on the District Focus on Rural Development in Kenya, stressing the importance of strengthening and empowering local governments. As for the Nigerian experience, Egunjobi points out weaknesses in the use of first- and second-level administrative centres, proposing the devolution of administrative powers to third-order centres and the strengthening of local government headquarters.

Urban-rural linkages, opportunities and survival strategies is another of the main topics tackled. Of particular interest is the case of Yaq Bariweyne in southern Somalia, a small town which Hjort af Ornäs indicates has evolved in response to local needs rather than as a consequence of policy implementation. Andreason in his study of Thika, Kenya, shows how households are deliberately split, usually with the man staying in town and the woman in the countryside. In contrast, Vaa looks at five typical female migrants in Bamako, Mali -- two of them the sole providers for their family. Schlyter finds that the women she studied in Harare, Zimbabwe, had weaker links with the rural areas, but that urban networks were developed as part of their survival strategies.

To take but one more example of the wide variety of material presented in this volume, the article on New Halfa shows the evolution of a town built to house the majority of Nubians displaced from Wadi Halfa with the construction of the Aswan Dam, thereby allowing them to preserve their identity as a community. New Halfa has become a multifunctional commercial centre serving a much wider hinterland population and drawing commuters from over 200 villages. Yet the original intent of the settlement is not being met, and there is great strain on housing, welfare, and job opportunities.

The articles point out the crucial role of Governments in decentralization and



devolution of authority and the need for careful investment in infrastructure. Similarly, support for small local entrepreneurs is vital; at present they lack both the skills and support services for success. Finally, household splitting and selective rural-urban migration are seen as strategies not just for survival but for better lives for migrants' children.

■ H.U. Biljani and P.S.N. Rao, Water Supply and Sanitation in India (Oxford & IBH Publishing Co., New Delhi, 1990), xii plus 105 pp., tables and figures, notes and references, select bibliography, appendixes; ISSN 81204-0536-6

As the authors mention in their preface, this book is a more holistic treatment of water supply and sanitation in India, relating it to other sectors of development. "It endeavours to explicate the nature and extent of people's access to water supply and sanitation in India not only in terms of mere population coverage but also in terms of type and level of services, governmental policy and the crucial interface of this sector with shelter, health, education and economic status between different strata of society, gender and age." Its timing is crucial, coming as it does at the end of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (IDWSSD).

The authors note that the information required was often scattered, if not incomplete, and call on readers for suggestions for improvement in later editions. The book is intended for both the academic community (in engineering, architecture and town planning) and for working professionals, administrators, researchers and volunteer agencies.

The contents are also broad. The introduction, for example, covers historical developments in the sector, before going on to a more detailed account of the situation in India. "It is rather an astonishing fact which remains yet to be adequately explained that from the first century A.D. to the 18th century A.D., there was no marked progress in sewerage system development."

A section each is devoted to access to water supply for a sanitary environment; access to sanitary means of human excreta disposal; water supply, sanitation and basic shelter needs; and to the interface between water supply and sanitation as related to health and education.

The final chapter offers emerging policy perspectives and directions for the future. The existing situation leaves much to be desired -- very low coverage, inadequate even when there, with financial, manpower and organizational constraints limiting progress during the IDWSSD. Thus the high incidence of related diseases is not surprising. While low-cost and integrated approaches have met success, these are not widespread. The needs are obvious: an improved database, rational use of resources, simplification of procedures, and organizational coordination. The authors urge attention to the informal-sector economy (e.g., food and water vendors), a departure from costly conventional methods, organizational restructuring, and collection of adequate data on resources geography, including remote sensing where practical. Technological options for further exploration are rainwater catchment, solar waterpumps, desalination of seawater (and its use by industries), low-cost water testing kits, stoppage of leaks, the use of biogas, and management of garbage, which is largely biodegradable. Further suggestions include a re thinking of town planning philosophies, re-education of professionals, integrated programmes and proper use of human resources, be they professionals or end users.

■ David Cadman and Geoffrey Payne, The Living City: Towards a Sustainable Future (Routledge, London, 1990), iv plus 246 pp., index, notes and references ISBN 0-415-01250-3

This book is a refreshing attempt to present essays both from academics specializing in mainstream urban research and from those who belong to the "alternative" movement, particularly those associated with the work of The Other Economic Summit and the New Economics Foundation. They are drawn together by the belief that the present preoccupation with the economic imperative is unnecessarily restrictive in understanding the city in its entirety. The essays in turn stem from presentations at the Seminar on Future Cities held at the Oxford Polytechnic in April 1987, the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

The first two articles deal largely with Europe and North America. Dennis Hay describes the forces which have shaped cities over the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, while Iain Begg and Barry Moore identify the direction these forces are taking us as "balanced decline", with four categories -- "expansion or recovery", bottoming-out", "further decline" and "maturing". The next two articles focus on the third world. Jorge E. Hardoy and David Satterthwaite note that national urban growth rates are closely related to economic growth rates, with the share of very large cities generally decreasing relative to some smaller cities -- thus questioning the extent to which forecasts of mushrooming mega-cities are justified. Similarly, Carole Rakodi questions assumptions regarding the breakdown of urban administration under conditions of rapid growth. She raises the question "Can third world cities be managed?", putting forth management options of strengthening existing administrative systems, community organizations, or the private sector -- and stressing the need for a more harmonious and complementary relationship between them.

In Part II, contributors examine a range of alternative views which may shape the future of cities in both the first and third worlds, taking into account notions of participation, ecological balance, local self-reliance, economic sustainability and technological choice. Among them is James Robertson's "Alternative futures for cities", again with four categories, in this case: collapse, hyper-expansion, business-as-usual, or SHE, the "sane, humane and ecological" alternative. Ecological concerns also come to the fore in Herbert Girardet's "The metabolism of cities", in which he emphasizes that a significant proportion of people live in threat of their health to produce goods and services which they can never hope to enjoy themselves.

Yet George McRobie points out in his "Increasing technological choice in third world settlements" that a wide range of more socially, ecologically and economically appropriate technologies now exist which could benefit a far wider range of people, offering them the necessities for a healthy life. Tade Akin Aina takes a look at the politics of sustainable urban development in the third world, showing how the poor have put scarce resources to effective and ingenious use, and mentioning the need to build coalitions and share experiences, knowledge and support in a bottom-up approach to development in both rural and urban settlements. Arif Hasan offers a success story of development through partnership -- the Orangi Pilot Project in Karachi, Pakistan.

The editors then review the articles, offering "conclusions and new beginnings". They emphasize "the need for those involved in shaping the future of cities to balance three primary elements: social needs, ecological balance and economic sustainability", for it is only then that urban development rather than mere growth can be achieved, and we can have urban development "as if people mattered".

■ Naomi Carmon (ed.), Neighbourhood Policy and Programmes: Past and Present (Macmillan, London, 1990), figures, tables, name and subject indexes, references, xiii plus 257 pp. ISBN 0-333-49516-0

This volume stems from a special issue of the *Policy Studies Journal* vol. 16 (2), Winter 1987-8, which included articles on an international symposium on neighbourhood policy and practice held in May 1986 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Several journal contributors were asked to expand their papers, and additional chapters were specifically invited for the book.

An overview of the literature on neighbourhood decline and revitalization in the United States of America by Dennis Gale leads him to explain the reversibility of neighbourhood decline in terms of changing attitudes, social norms, fashions and tastes rather than conventional market dynamics. Alan Murie, looking at housing in British neighbourhoods, notes the loss of effective demand for housing, referring to changes in the location of the workplace as the main determinant.

National neighbourhood programmes are also reviewed, as when Robert Wood looks again at the Model Cities Program in the United States of America in terms of the civil rights movement.

In the next section, Ernest Alexander analyses inter-organizational coordination in neighbourhood development, arguing for strong (but not necessarily centralized) coordination models, and social/political commitment to overcome resource scarcity and competing claims. There are articles as well on the empowerment of neighbourhood residents, with Peter Marcuse, for example, looking at the role of community boards in New York City and concluding that the extent of influence lies not on form or legal power but on political strength.

Current programmes are also evaluated, as in the study by Thomas Reiner and Julian Wolpert of 183 not-for-profit neighbourhood preservation companies in New York State, which suggests reconsidering the goal of self-sufficiency irrespective of target area and type of service activity. The book concludes with two articles on rethinking for the future. Susan Fainstein presents neighbourhood planning as planning by neighbourhood people and organizations, not as top-to-bottom planning for neighbourhoods. In the final chapter, Bernard Frieden and Marshall Kaplan argue for exploiting the new opportunities raised by current development in central cities to benefit the poor residents of the flourishing urban areas, with special reference to job opportunities and educational improvements. The editor notes that the main lesson is that "[c]rafting strategies in accordance with economic and political conditions is a sine qua non for success."

By the end of the book, the authors have answered the question posed by the editor in her introduction: "Why neighbourhoods? Who cares about neighbourhoods at the end of the twentieth century?", going on to offer practical suggestions for improvement.

■ Frank J. Costa et al., eds, Urbanization in Asia: Spatial Dimensions and Policy Issues (U. of Hawaii Press, 1989), ix plus 412 pp., notes, figures, index ISBN 0-8248-1181-8

Not only are Asian urbanization and urbanism understudied, Asian research is seldom published in any coherent manner. Against this background, an international conference on Asian urbanization was convened in April 1985 at the University of Akron, offering the chance for 70 scholars from 14 countries to present their studies and discuss their views. This book presents a selection of 19 studies from that meeting; they cover the spectrum from macro-level national views to micro-level case studies of individual cities, grouped into four parts.

In the first, urbanization trends and prospects are outlined. The Asian countries together in the early 1980s still had the smallest proportion of their populations in urban places. As a consequence, "[f]or many decades into the future, Asia will be experiencing explosive urban growth." An overview of the literature is also included.

In Part II, national trends and processes are outlined for China, India and Pakistan. The Chinese emphasis on urban-based industrial development and the restriction of urban growth through control of rural-to-urban migration has led to a unique experience of urban development, which is outlined by Shunzan Ye. Also in this section, T.G. McGee uses the Indonesian word *kotadesasi* "joining *kota* (town) and *desa* (village) to make up a word which carries the concept of urban and rural activity occurring in the same geographic territory". *Kotadesasi* activities may be used as a tool in national development.

Regional and metropolitan effects of urbanization are considered next. Among those described and analysed are pollution, and the high level of urban concentration in certain areas. Swapna Bannerjee-Guha uses New Bombay as an example of planned population dispersal which has attracted numerous high- and middle-income families.

The third part, case studies in urban development, illustrates the varied nature of Asian urban development, with authors discussing important topics for the country or city in question. Among these are William B. Wood's consideration of resource frontier cities, using the examples of Samarinda and Balikpapan in Indonesia, and Ramesh Tiwari's study of Jaisalmer, India, in terms of the preindustrial city model.

The final part looks at issues and policies for urban development. Here articles range across Bruce Taylor's analysis of the accomplishments and failures of planning in Hong Kong, Amrit Lall's consideration of the role of squatter settlements in Chandigarh to R.J. Fuchs' and E.M. Pernia's views on the influence of foreign direct investment on spatial concentration, in this case by the Japanese.

■ Jonathan Dawson (ed. Mog Ball), Using Technical Skills in Community Development: An analysis of VSO's Experience (London, VSO/IT Publications 1990) viii plus 55 pp. ISBN 1 85339 078 X

As George McRobie, a founder member and current Vice-President of the Intermediate Technology Development Group, points out in his foreword, experience has shown that tools and equipment appropriate for ownership and use by the poor will only

work "as part of a package which empowers local people to choose what suits them best; gives them access to a low-cost good quality product over which they have control; and which enables them, by using it, to raise their standard of living on a sustainable basis."

This book examines the experience of VSO volunteers in sharing technical skills with informal groups and communities in developing countries. Using case studies ranging from community water supply in Nepal to a low-cost housing project in Kenya (a direct result of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless), the author comes up with a number of lessons. For example, volunteers will need time for thorough cultural familiarization and to realize that the transfer of skills is as important as their application. They must be willing and able to do work needing technical or professional (e.g., marketing) skills beyond their main qualifications, undertake social and community work, understand group dynamics, and strike the right balance between doing and facilitating, training and teaching others to take over.

The participation of beneficiaries in managing projects should take highest priority, with careful preparation for and timing of the transfer of control to the local workers or even the beneficiaries themselves. To allow and aid this process, volunteers often need more direction and support, including time to discover local needs in the specific social, cultural and economic as well as technological context. Project management in many cases is best viewed in qualitative versus quantitative terms, e.g., the use of an innovation, or local capability to maintain and nurture whatever equipment or development is involved. Ideally, a combination of various forms of teamwork, good timing and an accurate assessment of skills needed will lead to satisfactory results for the agency, volunteer, and beneficiary group.

■ **Roland Ziss (tr. Gregory G. Woods-Schank), Shelter and Self-help: Development Cooperation for the Improvement of Housing Conditions in Developing Countries** (Cologne, German Ministry for Economic Cooperation, August 1990) 96 pp., copious photographs ISBN 3-88085-385-1

As the preface points out, this publication is "addressed to all those who would like to inform themselves on the challenges that need to be faced in the developing countries, and on the German contributions being made to solving these problems. It is directed equally at interested laypersons and at the makers of housing policy."

The housing situation in the developing countries is covered in terms of needs and resources, with emphasis on the importance of the sector. This is followed by an overview of experiences in cooperation, both multilateral -- chiefly UNCHS (Habitat) and the World Bank - - and German bilateral. These experiences are set out in a framework of political/economic, institutional/administrative, socio-cultural and technological considerations and constraints. Objectives of the housing projects are to improve the situation of low-income households, initiate long-term, broadly-based processes that will become self-sustaining and steadily improve the housing situation on the basis of locally available resources and self-help, and to generate employment and income.

The bulk of the book is then dedicated to institutions and project examples, from an integrated settlements upgrading project in El Caliche, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, which also contained an institution-building component for the national housing authority, INVI, through seminars on housing finance, to the Habitat Directory, distributed by UNCHS (Habitat).

An appendix of statistics on housing projects conducted within the scope of German technical cooperation, financial cooperation and measures taken by the German Federal Ministry for Regional Planning, Building and Urban Development is also included in the book, as are addresses of shelter-related agencies in the (then) Federal Republic of Germany, and a list of abbreviations.

■ **Christine van Wijk-Sijbesma, What Price Water? User Participation in Paying for Community-based Water Supply with particular emphasis on piped systems,** IRC Occasional Papers Series No. 10 (The Hague, IRC, 1990), vi plus 90 pp., tables, figures, footnotes, selected readings and subject index

The main aim of this occasional paper is to provide a set of practical guidelines for project staff involved in planning, implementing and managing piped community water supplies, and as background or reference materials for policy advisors deciding how to charge for rural and peri-urban water.

As the foreword indicates, the publication is also "an attempt to remove some of the mysticism and specialist jargon surrounding financial issues and to discuss them in a practical way". To this end, illustrative cases are provided under almost every sub-heading, while the main body of the text is both readable and informative, clearly setting out the pros and cons of various means of community-based finance. A summary table of financing options is provided as an appendix.

The two main options are community fund raising and regular user charges, with water vending and indirect taxation reserved for specific cases. Under each option, particular possibilities are explored. Community fundraising, for example, might take the form of voluntary contributions, general community revenue (from commercial enterprises), community revolving funds, or production cooperatives, including savings clubs. Similarly, the author explores various options for regular charges: flat water rates, graded rates, a combination of paid private and free public taps, and rates based on water metering.

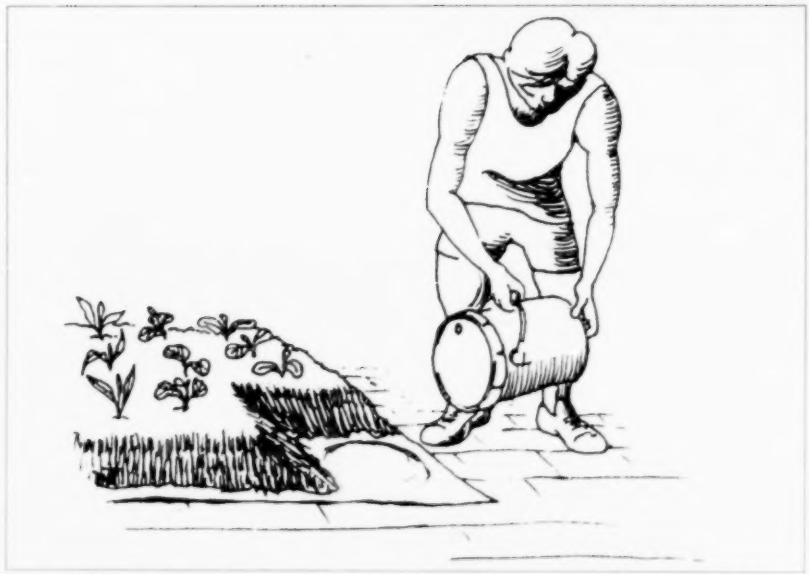
Under administration, the involvement of local management organizations, and the necessary responsibilities and tasks are outlined. Good maintenance is stressed as a pre-condition for regular and prompt payment by users. "When the water supply is functioning poorly, the users do not like to pay. This can be the start of a vicious circle: poor payment leads to lack of funds for maintenance and repairs. This in turn reduces the reliability of the water supply, resulting in a further deterioration of user payment." Finally, the need for support from outside the community is recognized. Agency inputs will, she states, be needed for community consultation in local planning, for health education and improvements in sanitation, for training on maintenance and administration, and for monitoring of completed systems.

Journals

■ ECHO Development Notes, issue 30 (August 1990)

This issue of the newsletter is an expanded one on rooftop gardening, emphasizing the use of local, low-cost, lightweight materials to obtain satisfactory production with minimal inputs. Author Martin L. Price gives examples of three methods: the shallow bed garden, which uses a 3 to 6 inch bed of compost; the shallow pool garden, which consists of an 1/8 to 1/4 inch deep pool of water; and the wick garden, which uses a piece of polyester cloth. Real-life success stories and technical details are offered, and the three methods compared.

Those working with small farmers or urban gardeners in the third world should request an application for a free subscription from *ECHO Development Notes*, 17430 Durrance Rd., North Fort Myers, FL 33917, U.S.A. Other subscriptions are $US 10 per year ($US 5 for students).



A shallow pool garden. Note position of hole in the lid of the bucket. Source: ECHO Development Notes, *issue 30 (August 1990).*

■ Trialog 28 (first quarter 1991)

This issue of the journal is devoted to urban ecology, yet consciously includes rural development since rural and urban (eco-) development are seen as "two sides of the same coin to be dealt with simultaneously". J. Oestereich in his lead article documents current urbanization trends and their impact on human life and the environment, while others deal with various aspects of the main topic. I. Sachs outlines the elements of urban ecodevelopment, while Meir and Shen speak of the needs of the Shanghai area of coastal China and C. Furedy elaborates on ecological sewage systems in Asia -- from garbage farms in East Calcutta to windrow piles in Karachi. There are also country studies on Cuba (by K. Mathéy) and on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (by D. Barkin). Literary as well as theoretical and practical approaches are taken by M.C. Echeverria, who quotes extensively from Gabriel Garcia Marquez in her "Building an irremediable planet?" (focusing on Medellin, Colombia) and by D. Kuban, who quotes Goethe in his "Cultural limits of urbanization" on Islamic cities.

Audio-visuals

■ David S. Hover and Vidoc Productions, *Katchi Abadis*

58 minutes, 30 seconds, available in U-matic and VHS format and PAL and SECAM systems

Housing for the poor in the third world has become a major crisis. Cities are often swamped by a massive influx of economic "refugees" from rural areas, many of them too poor to pay rent.

In Pakistan, the urban poor simply occupy vacant land and build their houses there. If they are left undisturbed, these improvised settlements evolve into built-up communities with markets, schools, and other basic facilities. Although the process was once spontaneous, today it has become a highly organized informal-sector system. Indeed, it has been much more successful than government programmes in delivering affordable housing arrangements for the urban poor. In the city of Karachi alone, more than 3 million people live in squatter settlements or *katchi abadis* as they are known in Pakistan.

Over the last forty years, successive administrators have repeatedly tried to resolve the urban housing problem without success. Official housing projects for the poor, such as the metroville sites-and-services scheme in Karachi remain virtually empty. The video amply demonstrates that there is much to be learnt from the informal sector insofar as land development is concerned.

The final third of the video documents an experimental project which has adopted and adapted the techniques of informal-sector squatter settlements within the framework of an official housing scheme.

To purchase this video documentary, contact: Production Video, 131 rue de Clingnancourt, 75018, Paris, France. Fax 425 86209p.

We have learned with sorrow of the deaths of Hira Nargolwala and Alvaro Ortega, both of whom dedicated themselves to the betterment of human settlements, and worked with the erstwhile United Nations Centre for Housing, Building and Planning as well as for UNCHS (Habitat).

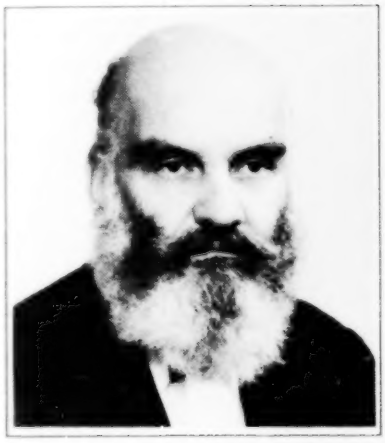
HIRA NARGOLWALA, 1919-1991

Following many years of dedicated service with the Government of India, including work as housing adviser to the Ministry of Works and Housing, Hiraji Nargolwala joined the United Nations Centre for Housing, Building and Planning in 1966. While working there as a Special Technical Adviser, he was responsible for a large number of technical cooperation projects in various developing regions.

In August 1979 he offered his services to the newly-formed United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as a full-time Technical Adviser for a token remuneration of $US 1.00 per year. In March 1988 he left the United Nations after a long and distinguished career.

This "jewel of a man" ("Hira" in Hindi means "diamond") will be sorely missed by all for his selfless service, total commitment to the ideals of the United Nations, and conscientious attention to detail. He generously contributed to the United Nations not only his considerable professional talents, but gave more than $US 82,000 from his personal earnings over the years to such causes as humanitarian disaster relief, the United Nations Volunteers programme, and the programme of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

ALVARO ORTEGA, 1920-1991



In 1945, Alvaro Ortega started his private professional practice in his native Bogotá, Colombia -- using new methods of precast concrete and vacuum concrete and experimenting with new shapes to reduce costs and achieve aesthetically pleasing results. He next served as a staff member of the former Centre for Housing, Building and Planning (1959-1964). In 1965 the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs appointed him Interregional Adviser, a post which he retained until his retirement in 1970. Thereafter he continued to work as a consultant with various United Nations agencies, including UNCHS (Habitat).

During the course of his career, Mr. Ortega's influence extended far beyond his hometown and country. The canaleta roofing elements which he developing in Mexico during a United Nations technical assistance assignment, for example, spread throughout the region and to other continents. Among his other interests were the use of modular coordination and of sulphur and sulphur components in construction, water recycling and water saving devices, and the production of building materials in the sea by electrolysis.

Nor did Alvaro Ortega believe in an aloof or academic approach. Throughout his career, he worked with local professionals to carry out physical projects, thus making an extensive contribution to those in developing countries, while making innumerable friends around the world. He will always be remembered not only for his considerable and wide-ranging professional talents, but for his dedication and sensitivity.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1991

AUGUST

THIRD SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCED), Geneva, Switzerland, 12-30 August 1991

(Information from: UNCED, 160 Rue de Florissant, P.O. Box 80, CH- 1231 Conches, Switzerland)

Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC), 17th WEDC CONFERENCE, Nairobi, Kenya, 19 to 23 August 1991

(Information from: Dr. Paul Syagga, HRDU, University of Nairobi, P.O. Box 30197, Nairobi, Kenya)

SEPTEMBER

International Union of Housing Finance Institutions XIXth WORLD CONGRESS/European Federation of Building Societies Xth EUROPEAN CONGRESS, Hamburg, Germany, 8-11 September 1991

(Information from: CPO HANSER SERVICE, Postfach 1221, D-2000 Hamburg-Barsbuttel, Germany. Tel. 49-40-6706051. Fax. 49-40- 6703283. Telex 2165737 cpo d)

Permanent International Association of Road Congresses, 29TH WORLD ROAD CONGRESS, including discussion of "The road and the environment", Marrakesh, Morocco, 18-22 September 1991

(Information from: Permanent Intl. Assn. of Road Congresses, 27 rue Guenegaud, 75006, Paris, France)

International Association for Housing Science (IAHS), XIXth INTERNATIONAL IAHS WORLD CONGRESS, Ales, France, 23-27 September

Information from: IAHS, P.O. Box 340254, Coral Gables, Miami, Florida 33134, USA)

Construction Industry Development Agency, Nigeria..., INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE/EXHIBITION on "Affordable housing for all in developing countries", Enugu, Anambra State, Nigeria, 23-27 September 1991

(Information from: Chairman, Conference Planning Committee, CIDA, Olive Chambers, 102 Akpakpava Road, P.O. Box 4736, Benin City, Bendel State, Nigeria)

International New Towns Association, 1991 INTA CONFERENCE on "Urban renewal -- striking the balance", Belfast, U.K. 22-24 September and Dublin, Ireland, 25-27 September 1991

(Information from: INTA/AIVN International Secretariat/Secrétariat Général, Nassau Dillenburgstraat 44 2596 AE, The Hague, The Netherlands)

Research Committee on Housing and Built Environment (ISA), INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON HOUSING STRATEGIES FOR THE 90s, Chandigarh, India, 25-28 September 1991

(Information from: Guru Ramdas School of Planning, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar-143005 East Punjab, India)

OCTOBER

Information Centre for Regional Planning and Building Construction (IRB), INTERNATIONAL BUILDING INFORMATION CONGRESS, BI'91, on "Building and planning needs information, "Stuttgart, Germany, 7-11 October 1991.

(Further information from: IRB of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, Nobelstrasse 12, D-7000, Stuttgart 80, Germany)

THIRD SUMMIT CONFERENCE OF MAJOR CITIES OF THE WORLD, Montreal, Canada, 15-17 October 1991

(Information from: Third Summit Conference of the World's Major Cities, 333, Saint-Antoine St. East, bureau 228, Montreal (Quebec), Canada H2X 1R9. Tel. 514-872-0001. Fax. 514-872-6067)

Commonwealth Association of Planners:INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR PLANNERS AND HOUSING OFFICIALS ON THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR SHELTER TO THE YEAR 2000 -- "Developing enabling strategies in shelter: Local involvement and planning -- an action-oriented approach", Ottawa, Canada, 17-19 October 1991

(Information from: CAP Secretariat, 404-126 York Street, Ottawa, Canada K1N 5T5. Tel. 613-233-2105. fAX. 613-233-1984)

NOVEMBER

University of Toulouse le Mirail, Pluridisciplinary Institute of Research on Latin America and Latin America Network, INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM on "Big cities of Africa and Latin America -- urban facilities and cultural practices", Toulouse, France, 27-29 November 1991

(Information from: Centre de Promotion de la Recherche Scientifique, Université de Toulouse le Mirail, 5, Allées Antonio Machado - 31058 TOULOUSE CEDEX Tel. (33) 61 50 45 95. Fax. (33) 61 50 42 09)

DECEMBER

Intermediate Technology Development Group, FIRST INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON LIME AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE CEMENTS, Warwickshire, U.K., 9-11 December 1991

(Information from: Otto Ruskulis, Mineral Industries and Shelter, ITDG, Myson House, Railway Terrace, Rugby CV21 3HT, U.K. Tel. (0788) 560631. Fax. (0788) 540270. Telex. 317466 ITDG G)

1992

MAY

CIB, WORLD BUILDING CONGRESS, Montreal, Canada, 18 to 22 May 1992

(Information from: Congress Secretariat, CIB '92 World Building Congress, National Research Council Canada, Ottawa, Canada K1A0R6)

JUNE

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1 to 12 June 1992

(Information from: UNCED, 160 Rue de Florissant, P.O. Box 80, CH- 1231 Conches, Switzerland)

American Society of Mechanical Engineers..., ECO WORLD CONFERENCE, Washington, D.C., 14 to 17 June 1992

(Information from: Michele Voso, Director, Exhibits, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, 345 East 47th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10017 USA. Tel. 212-705 7148. Fax. 212-705 7143)

JULY

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON HOUSING "At the crossroads", Montreal, Canada, 7 to 10 July 1992

(Information from: Pr. Marc H. Choko, INRS-Urbanisation, 3465 Durocher St., Montreal, Canada H2X 2C6. Tel. 514-499-4058. Fax. 514-499-4065)

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON URBANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT on "Municipalities and the provision of urban services: Issues and prospects", Montreal, Canada, 10-12 July 1992

(Information from: Urbanization and Development, Montreal Interuniversity Group, 3465 Durocher St. Tel. 514-499-4058. Fax. 514-499-4065)

Correspondence

UNCHS HABITAT NEWS is the official newsletter of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). It is published three times a year and distributed free of charge.

News of forthcoming events in human settlements which may be of international or regional interest are welcome, and should be forwarded to the Editor, UNCHS HABITAT NEWS.

We also welcome reprinting of any of the material in this publication, provided that the source is mentioned and one copy of the reprint is sent to the Editor.

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Manuscripts submitted for publication in UNCHS HABITAT NEWS should be typed in double-line spacing on one side of the page only. They will be amended and included at the Editor's discretion. If articles are used, the author(s) will be credited. If they are not used, no correspondence will be entered into. In no case will originals of manuscripts, photographs or other artwork be returned.

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NGO News

NGO NEWS ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (an insert to UNCHS HABITAT NEWS) serves as a forum for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) concerned with issues related to human settlements at the international and national levels. Most of the information contained in NGO NEWS is supplied by the Habitat International Coalition. The views of NGO NEWS do not necessarily reflect those of UNCHS (Habitat) or of the United Nations.

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The UNCHS (Habitat) Information Offices can assist you in development education and project-support communication. They can also provide you with educational films on a wide range of subjects. Write to them for help in solving human settlements information problems.

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Cover artwork

Front cover:
Top left *- H.E. Mr. Robert Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe and Dr. A. Ramachandran, Executive Director, UNCHS (Habitat) at the opening session of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements.*
Top right *- Mr. Harley E. Rouda, President, National Association of Realtors, presents a copy of Housing for All, the report of the Third International Shelter Conference to Dr. A. Ramachandran at the thirteenth session of the Commission in Harare.*
Below *- An output of the Visual Settlement Planning approach (VISP) and an artist's representation of work with the SIS-CAT low-cost cadastral system, two examples of UNCHS (Habitat) cooperation in the use of computer systems for human settlements development.*
Bottom *- The UNCHS (Habitat) poster for World HABITAT Day 1991.*

Back cover:
Photos of the UNCHS (Habitat) exhibition at the thirteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements.

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